

**Talk** - During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again.

**Activity - Discuss** the ways you and your family have been preparing for the birth of Jesus this past week and how this will continue through this week. **Make a list** of how you can change one behavior this week in the way you interact with one another as a family. “I want to try to stopping whining about eating a meal,” or “I will do all my homework without arguing,” or “If someone asks me to do something, I will do it the first time it is asked.”

### **Make a Family Commitment**

During this second week of Advent, be sure to talk about choices and behaviors we all make in our lives. Parents, be sure to talk about yours as well. Commit as a family, to making better choices for one another as we move closer to the celebration of Christmas!

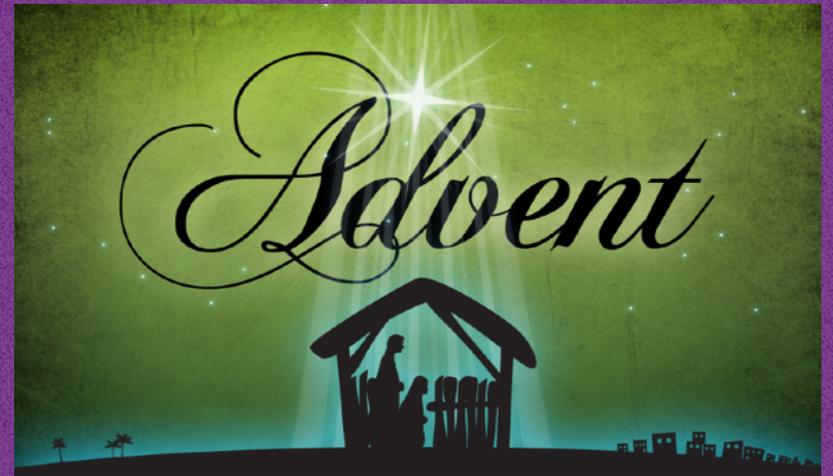
**Pray together as a family.** Close your time together with a prayer of thanksgiving for your family and for our larger family in the body of Christ! We give thanks for the opportunities to come together to share our lives together.

### **Blow out the candle**

Enjoy some time with your family!

## **Faith Formation at Home Advent II**

*Rituals are things that only your family does. They help communicate ‘this is who we are’ and give you a sense of belonging.*



The purpose of Faith Formation in the Home is to provide parents with a stress-free, easy to use lesson in order to lead faithful conversations with their children at home. Most parents spend less than 30 minutes a day in conversation with their children. Often those 30 minutes are spent giving orders and “parenting”. Faith Formation in the Home is designed in hopes that you will spend a few minutes a week talking about things which will help develop into faithful conversations about God, life, and relationships.

The lessons each week come from scripture and will be centered on seasonal themes.

**Start by lighting two candles on your advent wreath.** This represents the light of Christ and is a symbol that Jesus is present in this space. It also sets apart the time as sacred (special) and holy (filled with God). As you light more candles, the brighter the light will be as we move closer to Christmas!

### **Pray together**

God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

### **Warm up Question**

Read the question and invite everyone to share their own response. It may be helpful to use a, “talking stick” for person who is talking to hold. This will signify that only this person should be speaking until they pass the stick.

*During Advent, we are asked to look at our lives and the choices we make with in it. How are the choices we make affecting our faithful walk within our family and our larger faith community?*

**Scripture - Advent** is the season we will be reading scriptures about waiting, listening, getting ready, and getting prepared for the birth of Jesus. This is when God comes and lives as a human, God Incarnate, in this world.

Read the following story out loud.

Mark 1: 4-8

*4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with[g] the Holy Spirit."*