

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. Have you set up an advent wreath? Do you put up a Christmas tree? Do you have any family traditions which help remind you of the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus into this world?

Make a Family Commitment

During this first week of Advent, if you don't have a tradition or family ritual, pledge to spend time lighting a candle on an advent wreath, or say a special Advent prayer about preparation together as a family. Set these four weeks aside as a way to get ready for the birth of Jesus!

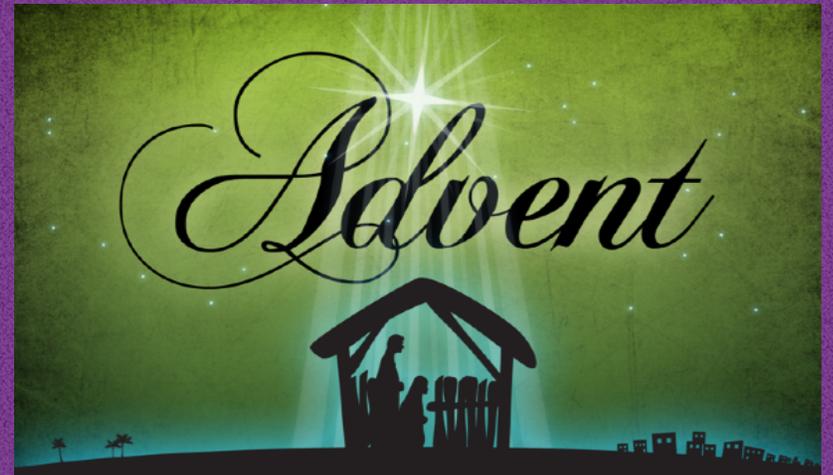
Pray together as a family. Close your time together with a prayer of thanksgiving for your family and for our larger family in the body of Christ! We give thanks for the opportunities to come together to share our lives together.

Blow out the candle

Enjoy some time with your family!

Faith Formation at Home Advent I

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 one candle 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).

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.

Have you ever talked about Advent in your home? What does the word Advent mean? What do we, as Christians do, during this season? What are we preparing for?

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.

Abraham and Sarah

Abraham was a clan leader who was born in Ur, a city in what is now central Iraq. His father, Terah, later moved the family to the city of Haran. There Abraham received a divine commission to take his family and possessions and move to a new land that God would point out to him.

Abraham and his wife Sarah obeyed God and traveled to what would become the land of Israel. Once there, God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son in their old age. Then when the son was 12 years old, God challenged Abraham to return his son to God. Abraham responded to all of these challenges with faith. He listened to God. He waited on God. Abraham was prepared to respond to God when God called on him.