

Christmas Movie Watchlist

- The Star
- Home Alone
- The Santa Clause
- The Grinch
- A Christmas Carol
- Charlie Brown Christmas
- Miracle on 34th Street
- Elf
- I'll be Home For Christmas
- Arthur Christmas
- Home Alone 2
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- Polar Express
- The Santa Clause 2
- White Christmas
- Jingle All the Way
- Rudolph
- Frosty the Snowman
- The Santa Clause 3
- Prancer
- Noelle
- Jack Frost
- One Magic Christmas
- The Christmas Chronicles
- It's a Wonderful Life

Advent 2022



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 ESV

Hey First Lavaca Families!

Christmas is such an exciting time of year as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Sometimes we get so lost in the hustle and bustle of our lists, parties, concerts, entertaining, etc. that we forget to breathe. We struggle to remember why we are doing all of this. How can we keep our focus on Christ, the One whose birth and love we celebrate this season?

Our hope is that this Family Advent Box will be a time of rest and reflection. But, what is Advent? By definition, Advent means "the arrival." During Advent, we remember what it was like to wait for Jesus.

Advent challenges us to focus on Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Taking time to observe Advent invites us to remember the hope, peace, joy and love Jesus offers.

We anticipate celebrating Jesus' first coming, but Advent also points to His second coming. We still long for hope, peace, joy, and God with us. But, with Jesus' second coming, we will have perfect hope, peace, joy and love, and we will be with God for eternity.

We hope that your family enjoys the activities included in this box. As you journey through this season we pray that you are filled with the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that only Jesus gives.

Christmas Activities

Come to the Christmas Morning Service at First Lavaca at 10:30 am! No Sunday School!

Enjoy the day together celebrating and remembering that Jesus is the reason we celebrate!

Enjoy old traditions or possibly start a new one this year!

Take family photos! Sweet and silly photos!

Enjoy time together as a family!

Take a moment and share the best part of your day and something you are grateful for!

Christmas Devotion

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

What is your favorite Christmas memory? Take time to share with each other your favorite memory from the past years or even something this year.

Read Luke 1:26-28, 2:1-20

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12

If you have a nativity set (that isn't breakable), allow your kids to help you tell the Christmas story using the figures in the nativity set.

Remind your family how an angel came to Mary and Joseph and gave them PEACE by reminding them that God is in control. Call attention to the shepherds and remark how they had JOY when the angels told them that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem. Talk about the wise men's long journey and how they had HOPE that the promise God made had finally come true. Lastly, look at Baby Jesus in the manger and remember how God showed us His LOVE that first Christmas by sending His Son, JESUS to earth so that we can have a relationship with Him.

Each one of these lives were changed when Jesus came to earth. How have your lives been changed by the good news of Jesus? Take time to share what the good news of Jesus has done in your lives.

End your time together in prayer. Thank God for giving us Jesus, the Savior of the world who gives us Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

Week 1

November 27- December 3

Hope

Genesis 3, Isaiah 9:2, John 8:12

***"A thrill of Hope,
the weary world rejoices."***

Week 1

Devotion Guide

Have you ever had to wait for something big to happen? Maybe it was a trip, game, concert, or even the first day of school. What about Christmas? Are you waiting in excitement for Christmas Day? Imagine you had to wait a year or even your whole life for Christmas Day! God's people had done just that, they anxiously awaited the arrival of the promised Messiah. They knew that God was sending a Savior to earth and had waited with hope for him.

Our song lyrics this week come from the "Oh Holy Night."
Read Genesis 3 together. You see, the world had been weary (tired or worn-out) since sin entered. However, throughout the Old Testament, there was Hope. God had a plan, and the Israelites (God's people) trusted in their hope of a promise. The promise of the Messiah, the Light of the world.

Impatiently wanting to do things on their own, wars raging, famine, slavery, and wandering, God's people wondered how long they must wait. But, God kept his promise, even giving prophets the words to speak, promising again and again: the Light will come.

Read Isaiah 9:2.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope for the coming of a Light, this Light would be Jesus.

Read John 8:12.

Jesus is the Light of the World. We don't have to sit in darkness anymore, waiting. We have our Hope now, and His name is Jesus. He offers us eternal Hope when we decide to follow Him. Jesus came to bring light and hope to a weary world.

Even in this weary world, we can rejoice with Hope because of Jesus, the Light of the World! We can share that light and hope with others.

Week 5

December 25-31

Jesus

Luke 1:26-28; 2:1-20

*"Christ the Savior
is born."*

WEEK 4 ACTIVITY

M&M_S PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Use the M&Ms provided in your Advent Family Box to do this activity. As you open your bag, give each family member a different color M&M. Pray together as a family using the guide below!

M&M

Pray that people who don't know Jesus as their Savior, would receive God's greatest gift this Christmas.

M&M

Pray for someone you know who doesn't know Jesus and then invite to church with you this Christmas. Pray they would accept your invitation.

M&M

Pray that Christians all around the world would shine brightly for Jesus, by showing love to other people this Christmas.

M&M

Pray for anyone who may be sad at Christmas. Pray that God would comfort them. Pray that God would be with anyone who feels alone, and that he would bring people in their life who will make them feel welcome.

M&M

Pray that people would be generous this Christmas and give to those in need. Pray and ask God to show you how you can be generous this Christmas to help someone in need.

M&M

Pray and thank God for coming to earth to be our Savior. Pray that God would use you in this next year to tell other people that he loves them and offers them his free gift of salvation.

**DON'T FORGET TO EAT YOUR
M&MS AFTER YOU PRAY!**

ADVENT PRAYER CHAIN

Included in your box are 29 strips of red and green paper. As a family, discuss and write different people and things you would like to pray for over the next 29 days. A few chains already have some names and things on them for you. Staple or tape the paper together to resemble a chain. Each day or night take a piece of the chain off and pray for that piece together as a family.



Week 2

December 4 - 10



Luke 2:10-14, John 16:33,
John 14:27

*"Peace on Earth,
goodwill to men!"*

WEEK 4 DEVOTION GUIDE

How can you show others that you love them? How have others shown you love? As we get closer to Christmas, we can remember how God showed His love for us. Do you know how He showed us love?

Read John 3:16

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

What amazing love! God sent Jesus, who lived perfect life, into a world filled with sin to redeem us. He did that because He loved us!

Read Romans 3:23 & 6:23

We are all sinners, and because of sin we are separated from God. (Sin is anything we say, think, or do that is not pleasing to God.) But God wants to have a relationship with us. That is why He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came and took the punishment we deserve because He loves us. When we trust in Jesus, ask for forgiveness, and respond to Him in faith, we can know God.

Read 1 John 3:1

God wants us to be a part of His family! The Bible tells us that God's love is so great that we can be called His children. Because of Jesus, we don't have to earn our place in God's family. All He asks of us is to respond to the truth, and wonder of His love. Thanks to Jesus, we gain the astounding privilege to be God's children.

Wow! What amazing love! How can you share the "Wonders of His Love" with those around you this Christmas season and beyond? Pray as a family that God would give you the opportunity to share His love with others now and in the New Year.

WEEK 4

December 18 - 24

Love

John 3:16, Romans 3:23 & 6:23,
1 John 3:1

*"And wonders of
His Love"*

WEEK 2 DEVOTION GUIDE

What comes to mind when you think of the word "peace?" Calm, quiet, stillness? How do you find peace each day or during the week?

Read Luke 2:10-14

The world was dark and quiet, but God's promise was fulfilled. The Prince of Peace had come to earth.

Internally we battle with sin, temptation, and fear. In the world we battle chaos, violence, and unrest. The world is very dark. We don't need a reminder that peace is needed, we just know we need it.

God's people waited for Peace, just as we do. We often feel doubtful of Peace when we try to walk through situations on our own. God's peace is more about the promise of His ultimate victory through Christ. It's so much bigger than our circumstances. We can have peace in the waiting, knowing that God already has the victory.

Read John 16:33

Christ has the ultimate victory over death and over all things that worry us. He overcame so we could know peace.

Read John 14:27

Are you overwhelmed, stressed, confused, or hurting? Give it to Jesus. Open your heart to the beautiful gift of peace that the Prince of Peace gives. He is waiting for you to fix your gaze on His perfection, His salvation, His faithfulness, and His peace.

WEEK 2 ACTIVITY

Use the sheet titled "Would you rather?" Christmas Edition to play a game with your family! Enjoy some Hot Chocolate together as you play.

Week 3

December 11 - 17

JOY

Luke 2:8-19

*"Joy to the world, the
Savior reigns."*

Week 3 Devotion Guide

Joy to the World is one of the most loved Christmas Carols! Christmas music seems to always bring people joy. What is your favorite Christmas carol or song? Does it bring you joy?

Have you ever been so excited about something? Have you ever been filled with so much joy that you couldn't keep the excitement to yourself? We are going to read about a special group of people who were filled with so much joy they had to tell everyone.

Read Luke 2:8-19

The shepherds got some very exciting news. They were amazed and full of joy when the angels told them that Jesus had been born. The shepherds did not keep this joy to themselves. They were too excited. They were overflowing with joy as they told other people that Jesus had been born.

Jesus' birth gives us joy too! We can pray and thank God for sending Jesus. We can worship Him for how amazing he is. We can also tell others that Jesus came to earth, just like the shepherds did. The shepherds were excited because they knew that the Savior they had been waiting for had arrived. By sending Jesus, God showed us that He loves us and that is something to be joyful about!

Take a moment to pray and thank God for the joy that He gave us through sending His Son, Jesus. Ask God that He would give you an opportunity to share the joy he has give you with others.

WEEK 3 ACTIVITY

Decorate the ornaments provided.
Place them on your Christmas tree.
As you decorate, share a Christmas
memory that brings you JOY!