



THE OF ADVENTURE ADVENT

SUMMARY | The word advent means “coming” or “arrival.” The word adventure comes from a similar root and means “something that is about to happen.” Advent is a period of expecting the arrival of a new adventure.

For centuries, churches have created various practices to help prepare hearts, minds, calendars, congregations, families, and individuals to celebrate the coming/arrival of Christ. Through the practice of observing Advent and lighting the candles of an advent wreath in the weeks before Christmas, we can look back at how God was faithful to fulfill His promise of a Messiah and then look forward to the promise of Christ’s return.

Practicing the adventure of Advent can help us trust that since God was faithful in the past, He will be faithful in the future.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. The first candle in the Advent wreath represents the prophesied hope of the Messiah. [Read Luke 2:25–38.](#) What prophesy of hope do you see expressed by both Simeon and Anna?

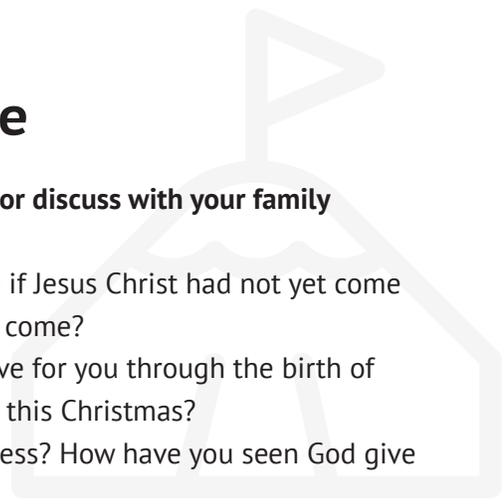
2. The second candle represents love. [Read Luke 2:1–7.](#) How do you see love expressed in the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus?

3. The third candle represents joy. [Read Luke 2:8–12, 15.](#) What kind of joy is expressed to the shepherds and how do they experience it themselves?

4. The fourth candle represents peace. [Read Luke 2:13–14.](#) The angels promise peace. What kind of peace did the Messiah bring? How can we experience this peace today?

5. The fifth candle is the Christ candle. [Read John 1:5–9.](#) How does Jesus bring light into our dark world today?

Challenge



The five days leading up to Christmas, write down or discuss with your family or a friend the following topics:

December 21: Hope What would your life look like if Jesus Christ had not yet come to earth? What hope do you have now that He has come?

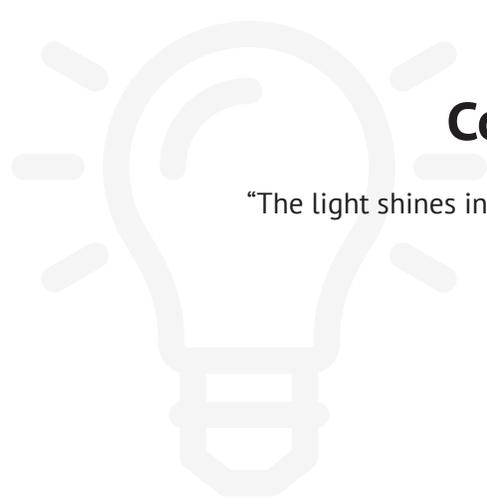
December 22: Love How has God expressed His love for you through the birth of His Son? How will you express your love for Christ this Christmas?

December 23: Joy How does joy differ from happiness? How have you seen God give you joy this past year even if you were not happy?

December 24: Peace What area(s) of your life do you need God to give you peace?

December 25: Christ How can you shine the light of who Christ is? Is there someone you can tell about Christ even before the New Year?

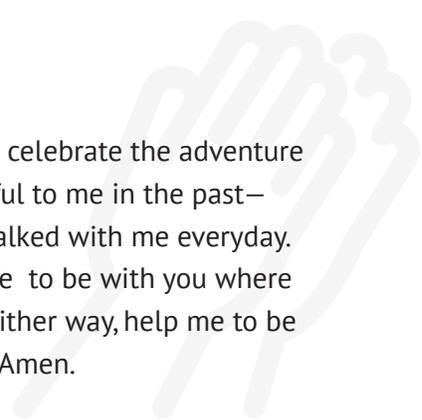
Commit To Memory



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

[John 1:5](#)

Prayer



Holy God, I await Your arrival! As Christmas comes closer, I celebrate the adventure of Your advent. Thank you for how You have been faithful to me in the past—how You led me to know the Savior and how You have walked with me everyday. I trust You to be faithful in my life until You take me home to be with you where you are or come again in power and glory in the clouds. Either way, help me to be faithful to You. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

