

2017 READVENTING christmas



The prayers, information, & activities of this calendar help us “reinvent” the Advent season, by focusing on **mindfulness, gratitude, reflection, & compassion** amidst the noise of commercial Christmas culture. In that spirit, let’s “ReAdvent” together.

This year’s calendar theme, “It Takes a Village,” invites us to learn about, pray for, and honor children and teens in need of help - and the various ways we can step in to be family of all forms.

WEEK 1: CREATING HOPE THROUGH FOSTER CARE

READ	PRAY	LEARN	GIVE	DO	GO
<p>Jesus says in Matthew 22:37-39: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”</p> <p>Give a dime every day for each person in your household who recites it correctly.</p>	<p>“May we have a posture that is open to loving the children around us. May we never be closed-minded to the possibility that God could use us for something extraordinary. May we learn to love boldly and in ways that draw us out of our comfort zone. Teach, shape, and show me how I can open my home to love others more intently.” Amen</p>	<p>In the U.S., approximately 402,000 children are without permanent families in the foster care system. Approximately 4,500 live in San Diego.</p> <p>Learn more at: fostercoalition.com</p> <p>Blog post about the joys and challenges of fostering: tinyurl.com/y8scskfo</p>	<p>There is a big need to help foster children transition to adulthood. Just in Time is an organization that helps 18-year-old foster youth achieve self-sufficiency and well-being. Donate gently used items like furniture & home décor or new items like cleaning supplies & sheets to children aging out of the system.</p> <p>Visit Just in Time’s site: tinyurl.com/yd5bd7h5</p>	<p>Consider becoming a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and be trained to speak on behalf of the interests of abused and neglected children in court and other settings.</p> <p>For more info, visit: tinyurl.com/4shog5a</p>	<p>Think about who has taken good care of you, especially as a child. Give a quarter for up to 5 of these people.</p> <p>How can you love the people around you boldly? Think of the children in your life who need you to share the hope of Jesus with them.</p>

before you start...

Make this work for you! Pick & choose among the activities or shift monetary amounts. To be ready for activities that suggest amounts to donate, it’s helpful to have coins on hand at the start and designate a common jar to collect coins...or create an “IOU” tracking sheet.