



JOURNEY

T O B E T H L E H E M



Advent Devotional Guide

 **FBC**HNC

Advent means “arrival,” and over the next four weeks we’re focusing on the arrival of Jesus. This weekly devotional is designed to help you keep your eyes on Him this Christmas season. The four Advent themes are **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. Each week you can read the devotion, and on Sunday nights at 5:00 a new devotional video will premiere on YouTube—watch it individually or as a family. Scan the QR code for the video playlist. A list of daily Advent resources is included below. We pray our church family draws closer to Jesus this Christmas, remembering that He humbly took on flesh to give us the salvation we could never earn. Merry Christmas!

FOLLOW ALONG

WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON YOUTUBE



RESOURCES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

The Jesus Storybook Bible

(You can use this resource up to the birth of Jesus)

The Jesus Storybook Bible Advent Activity Book



RESOURCES FOR OLDER KIDS AND STUDENTS

Unwrapping the Greatest Gift

by Ann Voskamp

The Weary World Rejoices

edited by Melissa Kruger

The Biggest Story Advent

by Kevin DeYoung

Family Advent Devotional

by Matt and Lauren Chandler

The Light Before Christmas

by Marty Machowski



WEEK 1

HOPE

"Now faith is the assurance of the things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
HEBREWS 11:1

We "hope" for many things—good health, a promotion, a win for our team—but this kind of hope is really just wishful thinking. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Nothing is certain except death and taxes," and most of what we hope for is just as uncertain. But for the Christian, hope is different. At Advent we remember the living hope we have in Jesus, who entered our world over 2,000 years ago. We worship because our hope is real—not wishful thinking, but full assurance. The world may see faith in Jesus as foolish, but our hope is firmly rooted in Christ, who opened our blind eyes by the power of the Gospel.

Reflection:

As you "hope" for things this week, remind yourself of the true hope you have in Jesus. Memorize Hebrews 11:1 and pray that God strengthens your faith and centers your hope in Him.

WEEK 2

PEACE

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."
PHILIPPIANS 4:7

Have you ever watched a baby asleep in its mother's arms? Minutes earlier there may have been chaos—crying, hunger, discomfort—but in a parent's embrace the baby feels safe and at peace.

That kind of peace depends on the right circumstances. But what about when life is far from ideal—when finances are tight, injustice hits someone you love, or a diagnosis brings fear? Where do we find real peace then?

This peace isn't found in a calm moment or perfect conditions. It was wrapped in a manger, won through a cross, and secured in an empty tomb. True peace is found in Jesus—a peace the world can't explain but believers truly experience.

Reflection:

As you think about peace this week, look not to a baby in a mother's arms but to the Child in the manger. Memorize Philippians 4:7 and ask God for this peace—peace that defies circumstances and flows from the good news of the Gospel.

WEEK 3 
JOY

“I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”
JOHN 15:11

We often confuse joy with temporary happiness—especially at Christmas. Children and adults eagerly await gifts, but the excitement fades quickly. That’s because “more stuff” was never meant to fill the deeper joy our hearts long for. That joy is found in someone else entirely.

Emmanuel—God with us. We celebrate a Savior who came to us. He’s not distant or unapproachable; He invites us to abide in Him daily. And when we do, Jesus promises in John 15:11 that His joy will be in us and our joy will be full.

Reflection:

As you hear songs about joy and see Christmas decorations, let them point you not to stores but to Christ. Memorize John 15:11 and take time this week to abide in Him and rest in His goodness.

WEEK 4 
LOVE

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
JOHN 3:16

Have you ever received a Christmas gift without having one to give in return? It feels awkward. We’re grateful, yet something in us insists we should give something back—so we apologize and scramble to “even the score.”

John 3:16, one of the most familiar verses in Scripture, reminds us of the greatest gift ever given: God’s unconditional love. We recite it often, especially at Christmas when gifts are on our minds. But God’s gift cannot be repaid with a quick trip to the store. It’s meant to be received—and then reflected. This Christmas, there is no greater gift to offer others than sacrificial, unconditional love.

Reflection:

Let John 3:16 remind you of God’s love this week. Recite it daily, and ask: *Who can I love sacrificially today?*