

WHAT IS ADVENT AND WHY?

This is a very good question. One that if we are honest, we may have been afraid to ask. The good news is that you are among friends here. There is no need to be ashamed if you are unfamiliar with advent or didn't know what it was. We get to walk on this journey together as we anticipate this Christmas season.

Christians have practiced and anticipated the season of Advent for a long time. The name Advent comes from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." Advent is us as a family and friends anticipating and celebrating that the Christ child has come and the King is coming again. We live in the in-between of the Advent that has already come and the Advent that is still to come. For many years' believers have set aside this season to remember and anticipate their King.

We remember that Jesus stepped out of glory, put on flesh, and was born in a manger in the unlikeliest of places to the unlikeliest of people. We remember that He lived a life that we were unable to live, sin-free and perfect. We remember that he paid a debt that we were unable to pay. We also remember that the grave could not hold Him and He was resurrected from the grave and through Him we have the promise of eternal life.

We anticipate that the King is coming again and that He promised He would wipe away every tear and restore fully what was lost. We anticipate that all things will be made new and that God will dwell with his people in full restoration.

This advent season we are not just going to remember that he came, but why he came. Through scripture, conversation and activities we will celebrate the King well and recognize that our King is coming again. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the heart of Advent.

With tidings of great joy,
Your New Vision family.

ADVENT 2019

WEEK 1

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN
DECEMBER 1-7

The people of the Old Testament looked expectantly for the forever King, the anointed one who would bring peace to his people. In anticipation, they declared, “For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah offers hope, and this hope would be embodied through God’s Servant known as “Immanuel,” who will one day establish a new Israel and God’s Kingdom on the earth. Oddly enough, Jesus does exactly that in His lifetime, fulfilling over 300 prophecies in Scripture that include details of His death and resurrection foretold in the later chapters of Isaiah.

READ

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this. [2]

Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV

REFLECT

1. What do you know about your birth? Why was it a big deal?
2. Who is this child that these verses are talking about?
3. What are some of the names that the prophet Isaiah said Jesus would be called?
4. Why is it important that Jesus' birth was prophesied hundreds of years before He was born?
5. Why is the birth of Jesus so significant?

ACTIVITIES: WINTER WASSAIL

In light of the hope that we have been given through a child that would change the world through his birth, we get to offer that same hope to others as well. Let's do that by making a festive, warm, drink that not only warms the body but warms the soul. Make this with your friends and family and then offer it to a neighbor, relative, or friend that could use a little hope this advent season. Who knew that hope could be offered in a cup of wassail?

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Servings: 5

Ingredients:

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| 4 cups apple cider | ½-inch numb of fresh ginger, minced |
| 1 lemon, sliced | 2 cinnamon sticks (additional for garnish if desired) |
| 1/8-teaspoon ground nutmeg | 1 ½-teaspoons vanilla extract |

Directions:

Combine ingredients in a large stock pot over medium low heat. Let simmer 30-45 minutes. Ladle into mugs, and garnish with a cinnamon stick. Enjoy, share, repeat.



PRESCHOOL: ADVENT CHAIN

Make Advent Chain (Paper Chain Christmas Countdown)

Making paper chains has been around for years and years, but you can turn this craft into a fun advent calendar activity as well! Just get 12 strips of red paper and 12 strips of green paper and then create your paper chain that is exactly 24 chains long. Every day your kids can rip off one piece of the chain. When the last chain is removed- it's Christmas!

You can incorporate scripture by printing verses from Luke 2 on each strip of paper. Starting on Dec. 1st, tear off the first link and read the verse. Each day read all of the previously torn strips together first then tear off the next strip to add to the story. This will allow you to repeat the biblical Christmas story with your child every day.

KIDS: FUN NIGHT

Make plans to do an activity that the kids would really enjoy. It could be going to get a treat, seeing a movie, or even driving around looking at Christmas lights.

Each day leading up to the activity, really talk it up and try to build excitement. Then after the event, talk about the anticipation and how this is what advent means; looking forward to something coming.

