



## *Advent Challenge*

Advent means *the arrival* of a notable person, thing or event. As we prepare our hearts to truly relish the gift we were given through Jesus' arrival, carving out time to celebrate as a family is one of the ways we can be intentional this season. Advent is a time to remember the promised arrival of our Savior, Jesus, and await His promised return. Consider using the "Read" sections of this document for a family devotional each of the four Sundays before Christmas and encouraging your kids to complete the "Application" suggestions during the week. My hope is that these application ideas can be one way we help our kids look outward this Christmas season. Each of the application ideas are also printed on an ornament shape that can be cut out to hang on the tree after they have been completed. One last idea to make this time special is to consider lighting a candle for each week of Advent on your family devotional night. As you progress through the weeks, light the previous week's candle as well. The Sunday before Christmas you will have four candles lit as you complete your devotional and the Christmas Day devotional will complete the set with five.

### **December Week 1:**

Read: Luke 1:26-38

1. Who brought Mary the good news?
2. What was the exciting news the angel brought Mary?
3. What exciting news does God want us to share this Christmas season?

### Application:

This week, as you go about your normal routines, emphasize the EXCITING NEWS OF JESUS! Find ways to share the exciting news about Jesus!

- Decorate the sidewalk with exciting news about Jesus.
- Buy or bake treats to give to neighbors with a card sharing about Jesus.
- Send a card to a friend or family talking about the exciting news of celebrating Jesus' birthday.

### **December Week 2:**

Read: Matthew 1:18-25

1. What was Jesus' mother's name?
2. Who was she supposed to marry?
3. Did Joseph obey what the angel told him to do?
4. Are we supposed to obey God?
5. What does obedience to God look like?

### Application:

This week, emphasize how God calls us to LOVE OTHERS FIRST. Obey God this week by putting others' interests above your own.

- Do a chore around the house without being asked.
- Ask a sibling what they want to do/play and do it with them.
- Let a sibling pick the show or Christmas movie instead of what you would prefer.
- Buy a Christmas gift for a child in need.

### **December Week 3:**

Read: Luke 2:1-7

1. Who had to make a long trip?
2. Did they find a comfy place to sleep? Where was Jesus born?
3. Where were you born? (emphasize comfort and cleanliness of location)?
4. Why do you think God sent his son to be born in a barn?

Application:

This week, emphasize how Jesus sacrificed His COMFORT for us. Jesus left the comfort of heaven to come to Earth to rescue us. Think of ways we can PUT THE COMFORT OF OTHERS BEFORE OURSELVES.

- Clean up someone else's mess.
- Give mom or dad a foot rub.
- Hold the door open for someone.
- Go on a walk and pick up any trash you see.

**December Week 4:**

Read: Luke 2:8-20

1. How did the shepherds feel when the angels appeared?
2. How would you feel if the angels appeared to you?
3. What did the shepherds do in response to the angels good news? (emphasize that they worshiped)
4. What is the greatest gift of all time?

Application:

This week, emphasize how the birth of Jesus should lead our hearts most importantly to WORSHIP

- Have a family night of worship - include the kids as you choose songs and activities that will point your heart to God.
- Pray together as a family, thanking God for sending Jesus.
- Make a list of everything you are thankful to God for.
- Plan a day of rest in this busy holiday season to clear the calendar and spend time worshipping by truly resting.

### **Christmas Morning:**

Read: John 1:1-5

1. Who is the light of the world?
2. Whose birthday is today?
3. How did Jesus overcome the darkness?

Application:

- Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and allow kids to blow out candles on a birthday cake or whatever breakfast food you have on hand.