

A photograph of evergreen tree branches with snow, positioned at the top of the page.

*advent*

PREPARE THE WAY





# W E L C O M E !

Hello Families!

This Christmas devotional is designed to focus on the events of Advent, from the angel's announcement to Mary to the magi visiting the new King Jesus. We have these events broken into weekly readings, family discussions, worship and a video resource to support the Scripture. These weekly reflections are meant for your whole family to participate in together and should take no more than 15 minutes!

Our goal is to create a liturgical rhythm in our homes that sets this time in the Church year as apart as holy + sacred, to give special attention to the arrival of Jesus and break it down into smaller, digestible themes for our children to process. We encourage you to show your child how to find the different passages in the Bible, read what Scriptures they are able to read and lead the family discussion times.

We hope you utilize this devotional in your home this Advent season and that you find it meaningful and helpful. May it help usher in the peace and anticipation of this Christmas season into your home!

Warmly,  
Great Lakes Kids





## WEEK ONE

*Our Savior is coming!*

Young and unmarried, a teenager named Mary was visited by an angel of God and received some rather shocking news: God chose her to become the mother of His son, Jesus! And her son, Jesus, would be the promised Savior that the Jewish people have long waited for. He would be called Emmanuel, God with us. But Mary was afraid and confused by this announcement because she was engaged to a man named Joseph and they were not yet married. Despite not knowing what would come next, Mary decided to trust God with her life and say yes to His plan for her to become Jesus' mother. Her obedience to God's plan changed the world forever. Nothing is impossible for God!

### READ

The Angel Visits Mary: Luke 1:26-38

### WORSHIP

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* by Christy Nockles

### WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkEypzmHwCI>

### DISCUSS

God desires us to obey and trust Him with our lives. Has there been a time when you had a plan for something to happen and it didn't turn out that way? Mary had to trust God's plan for her life, not knowing what was going to happen next. Are there places in your life where you have difficulty saying yes to God? Where do you sometimes struggle to obey what God tells you to do?





## WEEK TWO

### *Emmanuel, God with us*

During a census, Joseph and his fiancée, a very pregnant Mary, made a long journey across Israel on a donkey to Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem.

When they made it into the village, Mary went into labor; however, there was no room at the inn for them to stay. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a dirty barn filled with animals and hay. She wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger -- what a humble, simple beginning for the Savior of our world! This was not an unfortunate turn of events, but exactly the way God planned the arrival of His only son, Jesus. Sometimes God's work goes on quietly in hidden places. As Paul tells us later in the New Testament, God emptied Himself, taking the form of a lowly servant... for us!

### READ

The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-7

### WORSHIP

*Adore Him* by Kari Jobe

### WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwXp3We-fvM>

### DISCUSS

Jesus wants to make Himself permanently at home in our hearts. He doesn't want us to wait for a more convenient time, but right now, right where we are. Is there room in your heart for Jesus? How do you crowd Jesus out of life? Do you say it by your choices that there's "no room"? What are ways you can lower or empty yourself for Jesus and other people to take on a servant's heart?





## WEEK THREE

### *Glory in the Highest!*

After Jesus was born, an angel of God appeared to a field of young shepherds tending their flocks. The angel shone brightly with the glory of God but told the shepherds to not be afraid, that the angel brought the shepherds good news! In the town of Bethlehem, the Savior of the world had been born. Shepherds were often poor peasants without much social influence but God choosing these humble shepherds to be the first to receive the good news of Jesus' birth was so important. It meant that the great and glorious God decided to stoop down to Earth to become one of us, a human, to meet us in our lowly broken humanity.

### READ

The Shepherds Visit Jesus: Luke 2:8-19

### WORSHIP

*Glory in the Highest* by Chris Tomlin

### WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo>

### DISCUSS

If you had been a shepherd, would you have been frightened by the angel's message? Why do you think the shepherds were the ones selected to visit Jesus? How can this story change how you view people in your everyday life? Is there anyone you quickly dismiss, or don't pay attention to, and how can you change your behavior towards these people in the future?





## WEEK FOUR

*Our finest gifts we bring*

A group of wise men, called magi, traveled from the East to find the new king of the Jews. They followed a bright star in the sky to come and worship this king. However, the jealous King Herod tried to trick the magi into telling him where this new king was but God warned them not to say. When they found baby Jesus, they fell to their knees. The wise men came to worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised to King David in 2Samuel 7. Jesus is the true King who is worthy of all our worship. The magi presented him with rich, beautiful gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh, offering these most precious treasures to the new Savior of the world.

### READ

The Magi Visit Baby Jesus: Matthew 2:1-12

### WORSHIP

*Little Drummer Boy* by Faith Hill

### WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk1LhnqROCM>

### DISCUSS

The Wise Men brought Jesus beautiful, expensive gifts but Jesus is pleased with even our smallest, simplest of gifts, no matter what they look like. What is a gift, talent or service you can offer Jesus? How does it make you feel to offer even the smallest of gifts up to God? How can you shine Jesus' love into this world with the gifts and talents you have?





# CHRISTMAS

## *The Light of the World*

On that first Christmas night, God arrived as a helpless baby, Jesus. Yet, just a short time later, Jesus defeated death, sin once and for all when He died on the cross. Unfortunately, this world is full of evil and sin because we are broken humans, but King Jesus arrived to be a light in the darkness. He is our everlasting hope! He is our eternal peace! He is perfect love! He is our unfailing joy!

Jesus is the Light of the world, shining goodness and love over everything.

This is the meaning of the manger scene: our all-powerful God took on human flesh so we might become strong in Him; even strong enough to set down our own power for the sake of others. And here's the best news of all -- Jesus came into this world for YOU, every one of us! No matter what we've been through or what we've done, Jesus' death and resurrection bring us back to life in Him.

## READ

Prince of Peace: Isaiah 9:6-7

## WORSHIP

*Joy to the World* by Phil Wickham

## WATCH

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC\\_pVzIVJOw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC_pVzIVJOw)

## DISCUSS

Jesus came to be the bright light in the darkness. What are some simple ways you can be a light to those around you, in your home, in your school or with your friends + neighbors? How can you help bring Jesus' peace, love, joy and hope to all the places you go? What does this Christmas season mean to you? What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? The Christmas season?