

Advent

What is Advent?

Hey Parents, Christmas is about anticipation. It's about longing to see our Saviour come to earth. It's about telling an important story – a true story. God became a man to bring light into the world. That man is Jesus. He is Immanuel, God with us. We use the word "Advent" when we talk about the Christmas Season because it means celebrating the coming of Jesus to earth, learning about everything He has done for us, and inviting Him into our lives with anticipation.

This Christmas, remember why Jesus' arrival to Earth was necessary. He came to fix what sin destroyed, to bring hope to all people, and give everyone the opportunity to have a close relationship with God again. We have provided a simple outline to help your family talk about what it means to find hope, peace, joy and love in the story of Christmas. Our prayer is that you spend some intentional time this Christmas with your family, reading the Christmas story and learning more about the greatest gift we have ever been given – Jesus.

WEEK 1

Hope

Hope is looking forward to something and expecting it with confidence or trust. Hope isn't wishful thinking or a fleeting dream. Hope waits in trust and stays strong over time. It withstands the ups and downs of life. God wants us to have this kind of hope, and we can have it through Him. God always keeps His promises, so we can wait with confidence, trusting and expecting God to fulfill them. We can have that kind of hope in Jesus and we can believe with certainty that everything God promises will come to pass.

Read: Matthew 1:18-25
Jesus Story Book Bible: Page 176-179

DISCUSS:

- How did Mary and Joseph show hope and trust in God?
- In what ways does Jesus give us hope?
- What are some ways our family can give hope to others?

PRAYER:

Thank God for sending Jesus, who came to give us hope that withstands the ups and downs in life.

WEEK 2

Peace

Peace is when there is no fighting or worry. But it is more than that, it is wholeness and well-being. It's when things are as they should be. Jesus came to bring peace between us and God. To fix what got broken between us and God when sin came into the picture. The peace that God brings allows us to put aside our differences with others and focus on the truth that God loves all people, no matter what. That same peace is a peace that goes beyond understanding, and allows us to remain calm in an uncertain and sometimes scary world.

Read: Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 2:1-7
Jesus Story Book Bible: Page 180-182

DISCUSS:

- Why is it so hard to "keep the peace" sometimes?
- How does knowing that Jesus came to bring peace between us and God make you feel?
- How can we be peacemakers this Christmas season?

PRAYER:

Thank God for sending Jesus to make peace between us and God, and restore our relationship with Him.

WEEK 3

Joy

Joy is like "a happiness" that doesn't go away. Our joy isn't dependent on what's going on in our lives, or in our world. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. Nothing that we have or own can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from God. Think about it this way: happiness is in response to something great, joy is in response to someone great – Jesus! Joy is what the shepherds experienced on the night Jesus was born. This Christmas remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy.

Read: Luke 2:8-20
Jesus Story Book Bible: Page 184-190

DISCUSS:

- What brings you joy?
- What part of the Christmas story makes you most glad?
- What are some ways that our family can bring joy to others this Christmas?

PRAYER:

Thank God for sending Jesus, who gives us many reasons to express heartfelt joy.

WEEK 4

Christmas Eve - Love

Love is when you care more about others than yourself. Love is not something we just say, it is something we do, it's an action. Love is from God. God sent His son, Jesus, in an act of love for us. Instead of us having to pay the price for our mistakes and bad choices, God sent Jesus to the cross to take the punishment in our place. And now, Jesus offers the free gift of forgiveness of sins to everyone. All we have to do is believe that Jesus died for us, and accept the forgiveness that He offers. As you celebrate Christmas this year, and give and receive gifts with the people you love, think about the love that God showed us when He sent Jesus as a baby to the tiny town of Bethlehem as the greatest gift we can ever have.

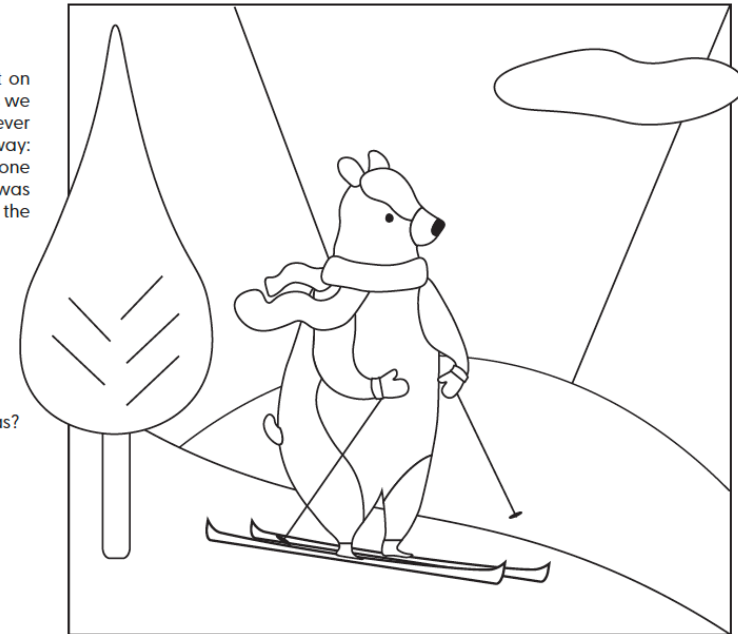
Read: 1 John 4:7-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Christmas Story: Luke 2:1-21
Jesus Story Book Bible: Page 192-198

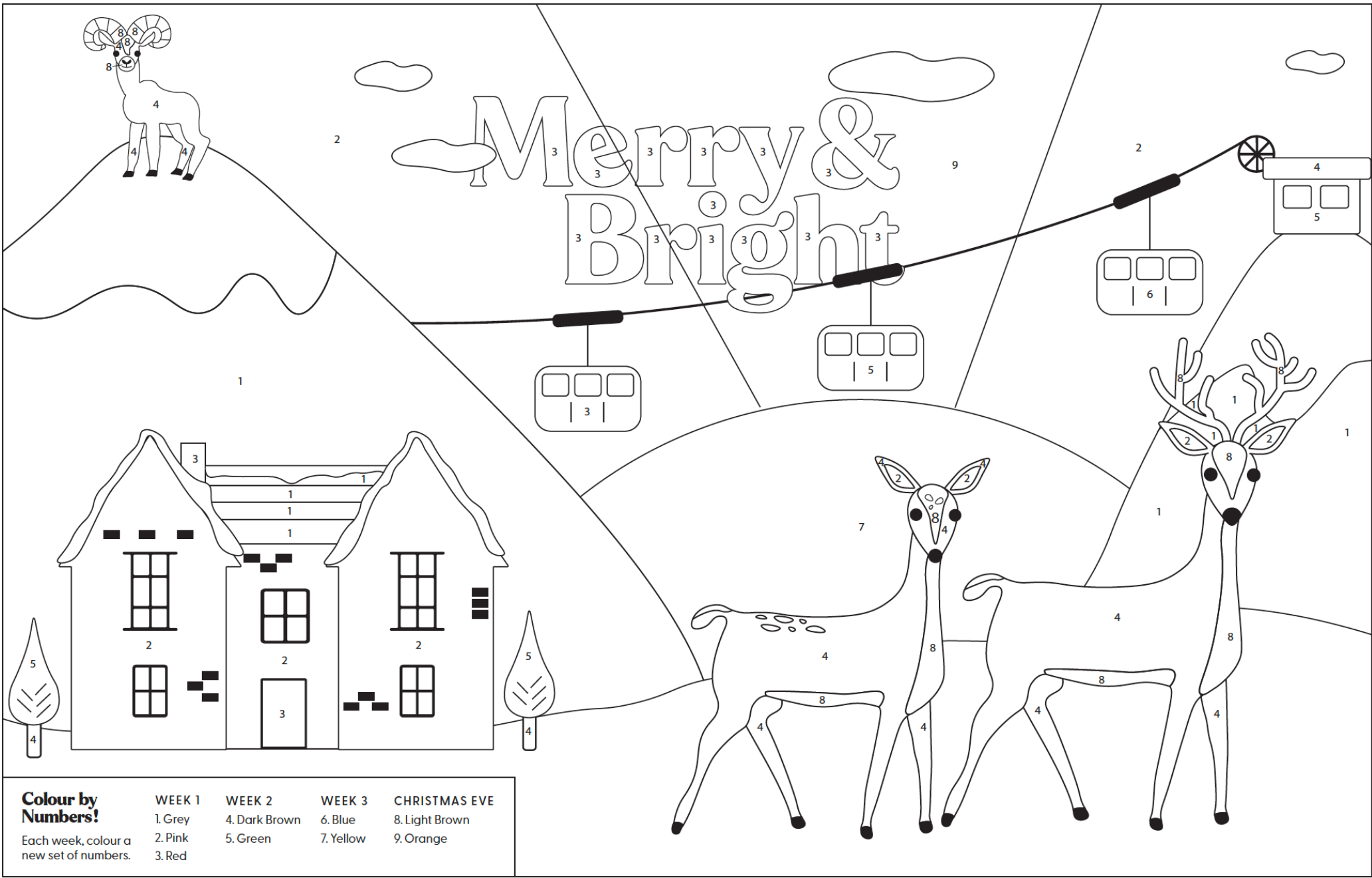
DISCUSS:

- If you could have visited Jesus like the three wise men did, what would you have brought as a gift?
- When you think of love, what comes to mind?
- What are some ways our family can show God's love to others?

PRAYER:

Thank God for sending Jesus as a free gift and showing us what true love is all about.





Merry & Bright

Colour by Numbers!

Each week, colour a new set of numbers.

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	CHRISTMAS EVE
1. Grey	4. Dark Brown	6. Blue	8. Light Brown
2. Pink	5. Green	7. Yellow	9. Orange
3. Red			