



Calvary Baptist Church

For the week of:
12/02/24

Family Worship Guide

Waiting for the
Messiah

“The Promise.”

Since the beginning, God was pointing to the coming of His Son. This week we will examine several ways that God promised the Messiah to His people.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Chris and Ashley Wacker

WELCOME

Why should we do a family devotional?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

As long as there have been a “people of God,” the command given to them has always been that they would be instructing their children in the way of the Lord. It is expected that parents will be teaching their children.

But teaching children is more than simply giving rules. It involves showing them HOW to obey the Lord by doing it yourself! These family devotionals are meant to equip you as an individual to grow in your understanding of the Lord and His Word, as well as providing parents with the resources and opportunities to demonstrate for their children what it looks like to pursue God.

How to use this devotional:

This is simply a resource for you to use however works best for your family! Each day there is a selected Scripture reading, devotional, discussion questions, a prayer prompt, and a song to sing together. You may consider splitting parts and having one family member read the Scripture while another reads the devotional and another leads the prayer. Feel free to read additional Scripture as you call to mind passages that relate to what was read. Sing more sing with your family than the one provided if you feel led to. Use this guide in whatever way helps you and your family draw nearer to the Lord together.

UNDERSTANDING ADVENT

In 2 Peter 1:12, we read, “Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them...” In large part, that is what pastors do – they remind you of what you already know. We need this because in the business of life we all get distracted and forget (or at least lose focus of) the things that are important. That being the case, in this introduction I hope to remind you of a few of the essentials about Advent.

Advent is not a word most of us use 325 or so days of the year. What does the word actually mean? If you look in your Websters (at least in mine) you’ll find two entries: advent – a coming or arrival of any important event or person; and Advent – 1. The birth of Christ. 2. The second coming of Christ. 3. The season including the four Sundays before Christmas. From this we can deduce that the season of Advent that we are entering is focused on “the birth of Christ.”

When thinking of “the birth of Christ,” I prefer to use the term “incarnation,” literally, the putting on of meat or flesh. Using this term reminds me that Christ (Messiah – anointed one) existed before “the birth of Christ.” God the Son has always existed. Before the incarnation He existed as spirit and was with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity past. And although He was omnipresent, we can look on the incarnation as a time when He left His honored position in the pristine “third Heaven” and entered the foul, sin-soaked sewer of Earth to become one of us. He did this:

- so that by His own nature He could teach us about the Father,
- so that He could teach us how to live a life that would please the Father,
- so that He could live a perfect life (something that we could never do) and by so doing earn the righteousness that we need to stand in the presence of the Father, and then
- so that He could voluntarily die a death of agony beyond anything we can comprehend, suffering the wrath of the Father as He paid all the sin debt of all of God’s elect, and thereby making forgiveness from the infinitely just Father possible for us.

But perhaps the most important thing to understand is that He did all of this because of His love for us; and as He has loved us, so we are to love one another.

I have written nothing you didn’t already know, but my prayer is that by reminding you of these things, you can and will enter the Advent season with a deep gratitude to God and a deep love for one another that will draw others to the Jesus we love.

**Merry Christmas,
Pastor Greg Teague**

MONDAY

Read Genesis 3:14-15

Discuss

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” Galatians 4:4-5

How good are you at keeping promises? Perhaps you're pretty good at it, but have you kept all of your promises in your life perfectly? I'm sure the answer to that question is, "no". Even with our best intentions, we still fall short in the area of "perfection".

Thankfully, God is perfect. He is perfect in everything He does and says and promises. He is a God that is sovereign over all His creation, including history itself. As we begin to shift our focus toward the Advent season, we ought to remember that the incarnation of Christ is not something that "just happened" in time and space. But rather, this was a promise from God that we see from the very beginning.

The great promise of Genesis 3:15 is that the Messiah would triumph over sin, death and Satan, by His finished work on the cross. Even in the earliest record of human history, as mankind plunged himself into sin and separation from God, God promised that He would send "forth His Son born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Discussion Questions

- Describe a time when someone did not keep a promise to you. How did that feel?
- Why is it so important for Christians to remember the promises of God?

Sing

Angels From the Realms of Glory
James Montgomery

Pray

Thank God for His perfect faithfulness and always keeping His promises.

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Verse 1:

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Verse 2:

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

Verse 3:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]



TUESDAY

Read Isaiah 7:14

Discuss

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)."
Matthew 1:21-23

Have you ever observed a child's behavior while at a doctor's office? Often, when the child is being ushered from the waiting room into the place where the doctor or dentist is at, there is a sense of unease. It's not uncommon for the child to feel unsettled or nervous. In these moments, the child is naturally searching for comfort from someone they trust. Someone they know will protect them. Even as adults, we often face challenging circumstances that cause us to desire to have someone nearby. A trusted person we can lean on for comfort or encouragement.

In Matthew chapter one, we read about the birth of the Messiah, Jesus. He is described as the one who will save His people from their sins. Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, put on flesh and dwelt among His own people (John 1:14) for the purpose of bringing reconciliation between God and man. Jesus fulfills the prophecy that Matthew points to in Isaiah 7:14, because Jesus was literally "God with us" (Immanuel).

When we put our faith in Christ, we are promised that He will be with us every step of the way. Remember, that even in the toughest of times, the darkest of seasons, or the most challenging of temptations, we have a great High Priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). What an incredible reality that Jesus, Immanuel, "God with us," promised that He will be with us always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Discussion Questions

- Think of a time when you felt scared or lonely. What did you do to calm yourself?
- How should the reality of Jesus' promise to be with His people change how you react in times of fear or anxiety?

Sing

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Ancient/Unknown

Pray

Praise Jesus for His love
and compassion.

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Verse 1:

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Verse 2:

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

Verse 3:

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

Verse 4:

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

Verse 5:

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain

Verse 6:

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain

Verse 7:

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain



WEDNESDAY

Read Micah 5:1-5

Discuss

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1-2

I have a friend that has this ability to take a piece of old, ragged, wooden furniture, and do something amazing with it. She will send a picture and show me what she has and her vision of what she can do with it. All I see is furniture that is chipped, scratched, missing hardware and I think to myself, “I just don’t see how that piece of furniture can turn into anything nice”. But a few short weeks later, she sends another picture of her finished project and it is actually more beautiful than how she envisioned it to be before she started her work!!

Just like the piece of old furniture turning into anything beautiful, Bethlehem was an unlikely place for anything good to come from. Bethlehem was once a big name to the ancient Israelites but had been kind of forgotten after King David chose Jerusalem as capital of Israel, even though Bethlehem was his birthplace.

But God can take something that is unimpressive and make it into something beautiful. We too are small, have chipped wood, are missing hardware, have broken drawers, but God has promised to make us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Discussion Questions

- How has God worked on you, to mold you into the person you are today compared to the person you were when you first encountered God?
- How does the Messiah's role as a Shepherd in Micah 5:4 give you encouragement?

Sing

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Phillips Brooks

Pray

Thank God for the work
He has done in your life.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Verse 1:

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

Verse 2:

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

Verse 3:

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

Verse 4:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!



THURSDAY

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

Discuss

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:31-33

We know that children are a gift from God, they are a blessing and a promise to us. As we prepare for their arrival, we prep the room, put together the crib, wash all the little pieces of clothing, so much to do just to get ready!! The pressure can be so much at times it may feel unbearable. Now multiply that pressure you’ve experienced by adding a visit from an angel that says your child will be the very Son of God, will have the throne of David, will reign over the house of Jacob forever in his kingdom that will never end!! Whoa.

Mary must have been overwhelmed with fear and concern, being a first time mother, let alone the mother to the promised Savior of the world. But what Mary knew and what we know is that God is always with us. He is reliable and faithful to be with us even in our fears and anxieties. Even in her questioning God and her confusion, Mary was used by God in a big way in His plan for our Salvation.

Discussion Questions

- Read the description of the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6. What does this teach us about Christ?
- Do you have a favorite attribute of God? If so, what is it?

Sing

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Charles Wesley

Pray

Ask God to keep you
focused on Him through
this busy season.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Verse 1:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Verse 2:

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

Verse 3:

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]



FRIDAY

Read Jeremiah 23:5-6

Discuss

"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption."

1 Corinthians 1:30

Cal Ripken Jr is considered one of the greatest baseball players of all time. His career stats are truly impressive. Ripken is the MLB record holder for most consecutive games played (2,632 games). He is one of only ten players with over 3000 hits and 400 home runs. Ripken was an all-star 19 times and an AL MVP twice in his career. Needless to say, this is an incredible resume.

Bobby Bonner was an MLB player that only played in 61 games. He had just 21 hits with 0 home runs over his career. This is a very unimpressive career for the Major Leagues, and yet, his rookie card is of tremendous value. Why? What makes Bobby's rookie card worth anything? You see, Bobby Bonner's rookie card featured another player as well. Can you guess who? None other than the future Hall of Famer, Cal Ripken Jr.

The value of Bonner's rookie card has nothing to do with his merit, but rather, everything to do with the merit of the one he's paired with. And so it is with us, that we have access to the Father through the merit of Christ and Christ alone. Our stats are unimpressive and bring nothing to the equation in terms of salvation. God promises in Jeremiah 23, of a righteous Branch who will execute justice and righteousness in the land. And He will be called "The Lord is our righteousness". Jesus Christ is our righteousness and sanctification and redemption! Praise God!

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been part of a team that had a lot of success because of one person's excellence? What was that like?
- Knowing that Jesus is your righteousness, how does that motivate your obedience to the Lord?

Sing

*Sing We the Song of
Emmanuel*

Keith & Kristyn Getty,
Matt Boswell, Matt Papa

Pray

Praise Jesus for His
righteousness!

SING WE THE SONG OF EMMANUEL

Verse 1:

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Verse 2:

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son
O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility
Come on bended knee, adore Him

Verse 3:

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads, for your King has come
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark
Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus



WEEKEND

Each week we will be walking through a section of Scripture focused on the advent of our Lord. Two Gospels, Matthew and Luke, record these stories for us. There won't be any devotional these days, just Scripture reading.

Our section for the first week of advent comes from Luke 1:5-25. These verses tell us of the conception of John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin. John the Baptist was the last prophet to come before Jesus. He was sent to prepare the way of the Lord.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, it is good to begin by looking at the one who prepared the way for Christ Himself. Take time with your family to read this passage. Consider taking turns. Ask one another questions and take time to pray.

LUKE 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

MARANATHA



OUR LORD HAS COME