



**Calvary
Baptist Church**

**For the week of:
12/09/24**

Family Worship Guide

Waiting for the Messiah

“The Provision.”

God established a sacrificial system to remind the people of their sins and need for a Savior. While the sacrifices never truly cleansed them from sin, it served as a reminder of the One to come.

Merry Christmas,

Zach and Riley Dugger

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 Leviticus 5:17-19 & Hebrews 9:22 & Hebrews 10:11-14

Discuss

Have you ever done something wrong? Maybe you disobeyed your parents or coveted your neighbor's new bike or were impatient in the post office line. Or maybe your sin was unintentional. Maybe you accidentally accepted too much change or you spoke shamefully of another and later realized you were really gossiping. All of these are sins against a holy God who cannot ignore sin or be in relationship with a sinner. Even those sins we did not commit on purpose are still sins that need to be paid for.

The payment for all sin, Romans 3:23 says, is death. In the Old Testament, God commanded animals to die in the place of sinful people. The type of animal was very specific and could not have anything wrong with it. The sinner brought his animal to the Tabernacle, where God's glory dwelt, and the sinner laid his hand upon the animal to signify the animal was dying for his sins, in his place (Leviticus 3:7-8).

We don't sacrifice lambs or rams or doves anymore, because something much better has paid for our sins. Jesus died on the cross as our sacrifice. He died for all the sinners and for all the sins ever including your impatience, your coveting, and your accidental gossip. He was the perfect sacrifice for all time. Hebrews 10:12 says, "But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God."

Discussion Questions

- Can you think of a time you sinned on purpose? by accident?
- Why don't we need to sacrifice animals anymore?

Sing

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Charles Wesley

Pray

Confess your sins to
God and thank Him for
His forgiveness.

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Verse 1:

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Verse 2:

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



TUESDAY

Read 1 Kings 6:1, 14-22 & Luke 2:1-7

Discuss

Since it is Christmas, after all, we ought to talk about Jesus' humble beginnings. Jesus was born in a stable. The stable likely did not look like your miniature nativity, but nevertheless it was shared with animals. It was not a likely birthplace for a king, yet God chose that very place to be born. He is not surprised by unlikely circumstances.

God gave the Israelites detailed instructions about how to build first a tabernacle—which was like a mobile temple—and then a temple that Solomon built (which was later destroyed, rebuilt in the book of Ezra, and eventually destroyed by the Roman Emperor Titus). Both the tabernacle and the temple were incredible. Most of the building and the furnishings were covered in gold. The curtains, the furniture, and the decorations were all expensive, beautiful, and purposeful. God's glory dwelt in the temple, and it was where the people could meet with God. It was where they sacrificed so they would live near God, for God will not dwell with sin.

Yet when Jesus came to save us, he came to a stable. He was laid in a manger. He probably cried (despite the Christmas carols) because he became fully human. He fulfilled all the law, all the foreshadowing of the sacrifices and the temple. His humble birth was only the beginning of his incredible humility towards us.

Discussion Questions

- Why did Jesus have to be fully human?
- Why don't we need a temple anymore?

Sing

O Come, All Ye Faithful
John Francis Wade

Pray

Thank Jesus for His
humility.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Verse 1:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Verse 2:

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; [Refrain]

Verse 3:

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

Verse 4:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]



WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 23 & Isaiah 53:7

Discuss

One of the Israelites' common sacrifices was sheep. Sheep are incredibly significant in the Bible. Shepherding was a humble business. One for which the Hebrews were looked down upon (Genesis 46:34). How beautiful that heavenly messengers tell shepherds first about Jesus' birth!

God often compares us to sheep in the Bible, and for good reason. Sheep are stupid, need constant tending, and can easily get lost. We are sheep in need of a shepherd. And Jesus came to be our good shepherd. Yet in the wondrous double symbolism that only God can execute, Jesus also came to be our perfect sacrificial lamb. Jesus died as the perfect lamb for all the sheep who were, and are, too stupid to even recognize Him as Shepherd.

Discussion Questions

- What do people have in common with sheep?
- How is Jesus a good shepherd to us?

Sing

*The First Nowell The Angel
Did Say*
Anonymous

Pray

Thank God for how he
shepherds you.

THE FIRST NOWELL THE ANGEL DID SAY

Verse 1:

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2:

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

Verse 3:

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

Verse 4:

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Verse 5:

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

Verse 6:

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]



THURSDAY

Read Romans 8:14-17 & Colossians 1:15-20

Discuss

Who is the firstborn in your family? In the Bible, the firstborn son is very significant. In Egypt, during the first Passover in the book of Exodus, the firstborn son was killed unless the blood of a lamb had been painted over the doorway. In the Law, the firstborn son had to be redeemed with silver and the firstborn of cows, sheep, and goats were sacrificed (Numbers 18:15-17). The firstborn received the inheritance, or the birthright (remember Jacob and Esau?).

The firstborn was precious, and so when God sends his firstborn to earth, he is not sending his spare or someone second rate. He is sending His one, only, and best. Jesus is the firstborn of Mary. Jesus is the firstborn leading the way for us: “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:29). Jesus is the firstborn of creation (Col 1:15) and the firstborn from the dead (Col 1:18). Because of Jesus' sacrifice as the first born, we are blessed to be in the family with Jesus, as believers, as co-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17).

Discussion Questions

- Why is it significant that Jesus is the firstborn?
- What does it mean that we are “co-heirs” with Christ?

Sing

Good Christian Men, Rejoice
Charles Wesley

Pray

God, thank you for
sending us your one and
only son.

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

Verse 1:

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow;
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Verse 2:

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened the heavenly door,
And man is blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Verse 3:

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!



FRIDAY

Read Leviticus 1:1-9 & Hebrews 9:11-15

Discuss

Under the Old Testament Law, the Israelites' sacrifices were very specific. One rule was that each sacrifice must be perfect or unblemished. A blemish might be a lame foot, blindness, or sickness. The animal the sinner brought to the Lord had to be perfect in every way.

So, too, Jesus Christ, had to be perfect in every way. And because He is God, He was perfect. Hebrews 9:14 tells us that Jesus died, "without blemish." 1 Peter 1:19 tells us that Christ's sacrifice was, "like that of a lamb, without blemish or spot."

Can you imagine? Jesus was born, grew up just like you, and lived until he was 33 and never, ever sinned. Never on purpose and never on accident. He always resisted temptation (Hebrews 4:15). What hope—what joy!—can we have knowing that in Christ, who never sinned, we are growing in our ability to resist sin too.

Discussion Questions

- How was Jesus able to never sin?
- Is there any other human who has been able to keep God's law perfectly?

Sing

Joy to the World
Isaac Watts

Pray

Thank Jesus for His perfect sacrifice and pray for victory over sin in your life.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Verse 1:

Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry Heart prepare him room,
And Heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2:

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns,
Let men their Songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3:

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

Verse 4:

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.



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.

This week we will read Luke 1:26-56. This is a beautiful section of Scripture. In it we read of the angel coming to Mary, Mary going to Elizabeth, and Mary's Magnificat. Though confused and nervous, Mary joyfully and humbly accepts God's plan for her life.

Jesus Changes everything. He changes our entire life. Mary didn't plan to be the mother of the Son of God, but she was. Jesus didn't ask the world for permission to change it, He simply did it. God didn't ask Mary if she was ready, He knew that she was. When Jesus comes into our lives He doesn't need to ask permission to change it, He simply will.

The question then is, will you be like Mary and humbly accept the plans God has for you, or will you be like Zechariah and doubt Him? Know that He will accomplish His plans either way.

LUKE 1:26-56

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 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."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

MARANATHA



OUR LORD HAS COME