



**Calvary
Baptist Church**

**For the week of:
12/16/24**

Family Worship Guide

Waiting for the Messiah

“The Palace.”

God permitted Solomon to build a Temple for Him. The Temple was the dwelling place of God. In the Temple, the Eden was remembered where God would walk among His people.

**Merry Christmas,
Dale and Susan Hanson**

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 Exodus 6; Revelation 21:3-4; Matthew 27:51

Discuss

God promised to deliver Israel from Egypt, to redeem the Israelites and to take them to be His people. God fulfilled His promise. God's compassion for His people was evident, and He wanted to dwell among them. God instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle (a tent that served as a portable temple), later replaced by a grand temple in Jerusalem. The whole Tabernacle consisted of three compartments: the outer court, symbolizing the body; the Holy Place representative of the soul, and the Holy of Holies symbolizing the spirit. God came to meet man in the Tabernacle, always there and accessible. Yet, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies emphasized God's holiness and His inaccessibility due to the sins of the people. The principle, God seeking man, culminated in Jesus Christ, the one Person in whom deity and humanity met. Jesus came to earth to live among men and to die on the cross for the sins of the world. When Jesus was crucified, the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies in the temple ripped from top to bottom. Just as He fulfilled for all time the sacrificial requirements, Jesus ushered us into the presence of God.

Discussion Questions

- What are the areas in my life where I need to let go of negativity or resentment to make space for Christ?
- Are there relationships I need to mend or forgive?

Sing

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Charles Wesley

Pray

Thank God for the day Christ built
His Tabernacle within my
regenerated heart, where He now
dwells.

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]



TUESDAY

Read John 10:9; Exodus 29:38; 40:6; 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 10:12

Discuss

To enter the Tabernacle, an Israelite came through the gate at the eastern end of the outer court. He had to shut out the world. There was no other entrance just as there is no other way to God except through Jesus Christ. Likewise, Christ-followers should shut out the world when they approach God in devotion, meditation, and prayer. This should be a quiet time in a place where the Christ-follower gets alone with God.

Just inside the gate was the brazen altar where Israelites made daily sacrifices to God for sin. This was the most prominent and imposing object in the court. There, priests offered substitutionary animal sacrifices for the sins of the people. It was the place where sin was judged, and its penalty paid. The fact that the sin offering was made annually and countless other sacrifices repeated daily showed that sin could not truly be atoned for or erased by mere animal sacrifices. The brazen altar pointed to God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Everything that touched the brazen altar was made holy. Jesus Christ is our brazen altar. Today, we know that in the Lord Jesus Christ one sacrifice for sin has been offered forever.

Discussion Questions

- Where is the quiet place in my home where I can get away for a time of daily devotion, meditation on God's Word and prayer?
- What steps do I need to take that allow for consistency? (Remember: Susanna Wesley's prayer apron? Wife of a preacher, Susanna had the habit of sitting in a chair with her kitchen apron pulled up over her head while her ten children read, studied, or played all around her.)

Sing

Wonderful Merciful Savior
Selah

Pray

Thank God for the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for individual sin once for all. Thank God for the assurance of knowing that Christ-followers have been raised to newness of life in Jesus.

WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR

Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost our way

Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way
You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for (x2)



WEDNESDAY

Read Exodus 40: 6-7; Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 4:16; John 16:8-11; 1 John 1:9

Discuss

The laver was the last object to be encountered before entering the Tabernacle. The laver was to be used for cleansing. Before entering God's presence, the Levitical priests had to continually wash to ready themselves for the presence of The Holy God. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the Law. When Christ died, His people were cleansed once for all time by His blood shed on the cross. We no longer need a ritualistic washing with water to come before God because Christ has "provided purification for sins." Now we can "approach the throne of grace with confidence," being sure that we are acceptable to Him because we are spiritually clean. After thanking God that the penalty of sin has been paid, the Christ-follower should examine his or her life to see if an individual sin, which has been committed since salvation, needs to be confessed. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God (the Holy Bible) to bring conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Discussion Questions

- How does the laver represent the Holy Spirit's purifying and sanctifying work in a Christ-follower's life?
- What lessons can be learned from the laver regarding the importance of maintaining a clean conscience and living a Spirit-filled life?

Sing

Search Me, O God
J. Edwin Orr

Pray

Confess intentional sin committed by acting in ways God has forbidden, as well as unintentional sin. Thank God for the forgiveness He has promised.

SEARCH ME, O GOD

Verse 1:

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from ev'ry sin and set me free.

Verse 2:

I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill thy Word, and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify thy name.

Verse 3:

Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;
Fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;
I now surrender; Lord, in me abide.



THURSDAY

Read 1 Peter 2:9; John 6:35,48; Matthew 4:4; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 5:14-15

Discuss

From the laver, the priest in the Tabernacle passed through a curtain into the Holy Place, emphasizing that the priest was shut into God. Christ-followers are royal priests, God's own possession called out of darkness into His marvelous light. When the priest entered the Holy Place, he saw the golden lampstand to the left, providing light in the enclosure. The lampstand symbolized the Holy Spirit who reveals to us truths about the Person and work of Christ as we meditate on the Scriptures, enabling us to know Christ more intimately. The lampstand also revealed the table of showbread along the opposite wall. Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life, the Living and the written Word of God. Christ-followers feed on the Bread of Life as they make it a part of daily thinking, speaking, and living. Just in front of the veil leading into the Holy of Holies was the altar of incense, the place of prayer, especially as it pertained to intercession for others. Jesus closed the gap between us and God when He died on the cross. Because of Jesus' mediation, we can now intercede in prayer on behalf of others, asking God to grant their requests according to His will.

Discussion Questions

- How does the concept of a sacred space within the Temple reflect the idea of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit?
- How do I see my daily work and interactions as an act of worship and service to God?
- What does the concept of "entering God's presence" mean for me today?

Sing

*Come Thou Fount of Every
Blessing*
Robert Robinson

Pray

Thank God for the conviction of the Holy Spirit who reveals truths concerning Jesus Christ. Seek clarification in areas of life that need to be purified or transformed to better reflect the holiness required of a royal priest.

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Verse 1:

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Verse 2:

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

Verse 3:

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.



FRIDAY

Read Isaiah 59:1-2; Leviticus 16:29-34; Hebrews 10:19-20; Acts 17:24; John 1:1-4, 14-18; Matthew 1:21-23; Hebrews 4:14-16

Discuss

In Old Testament days, the veil to the Holy of Holies—God’s earthly dwelling place—kept the priests from entering. The veil signified the separation of man from God by sin. Only the High Priest could enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. The tearing of the veil at the moment of Jesus’ death on the cross dramatically symbolized that His sacrifice, the shedding of His own blood, was a sufficient atonement for sins. It signified that now the way into the Holy of Holies was open for all people, for all time, both Jew and Gentile. God moved out of that place never again to dwell in a temple made with human hands. In the New Testament, God’s presence was manifested in a new way: in the person of Jesus Christ—the Logos—the living, incarnate, eternal Word of God. Through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God lived among His people. Jesus Christ, through His death, removed the barriers between God and man, and now we may approach Him with confidence and boldness. God dwells in the temple of the regenerated heart of every believer, joined together in one family as “the church”—a holy dwelling place for God’s presence.

Discussion Questions

- How can I cultivate a relationship with God through prayer and reflection, like the of the High Priest entering the Holy of Holies?
- How should my understanding of the temple of God—Christ-followers—joined together in one family as “the church”, the holy dwelling place for God’s presence, influence my life?

Sing

*Christ Be All
Grace Worship*

Pray

Thank God for the
confidence of knowing that
I have in Jesus

CHRIST BE ALL

Verse 1:

Oh to be, empty and lowly
Meek and unnoticed, and unknown
And to God, a vessel holy
Filled with Christ, and Christ alone

Verse 2:

How great is God! His grandeur
endless
How frail I come, before His throne
I am lost, in love relentless
That Christ be all, and I His own

Chorus:

May Christ be all, and I be nothing
His glory shines in vessels weak
May Christ be all, and I be nothing
This is my hope: Not I, but Christ in
me
This is my hope: Not I, but Christ in
me

Verse 3:

I am poor, and I have nothing
All my deeds cannot avail
But Christ endured the Father's
crushing
He bowed His head, as Mercy bled,
peace to prevail
He bowed His head, as Mercy bled,
peace to prevail

[Chorus]



Bridge:

Bring me low, my heart lower still
That Your grace my pride relieves
May these words resound loud until
Every tribe and tongue believes
Bring me low, my heart lower still
That Your grace my pride relieves
May these words resound loud until
Every tribe and tongue can sing

[Chorus]

Verse 4:

On golden shores of sure salvation
I will run to meet my King
Freed from shame and all accusation
He'll give Himself, nothing I'll bring
He'll give Himself, nothing I'll bring

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 1:57-80. This section of Scripture records the birth of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah. He was the final prophet calling for the repentance of Israel before the Lord began His public ministry.

Zechariah had doubted the ability of God to give him a son in his old age. For his doubting, he was made mute until John was born. In this passage today, we see that even though he had first doubted, Zechariah came to trust and understand what the Lord was doing.

Even though we may not know HOW God will accomplish His promises, we can have faith that He certainly WILL.

LUKE 1:57-80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

MARANATHA



OUR LORD HAS COME