

ad : vent

to come, to arrive

Advent is a time of preparing
our hearts for the
celebration of the
coming of Jesus Christ
to this world.

Our preparation does not cause Him to come.

HE CAME. HE COMES.
HE WILL COME AGAIN.

*Our preparation helps us to be ready
to receive Him as He comes.*

Will we see Him? Will we embrace Him?
Will we follow Him? Will we allow Him
to become our Savior and Lord?

Merry Christmas from the Family Life Ministry at FBCMI!

*We are thrilled to celebrate the
blessings of this Christmas season
through this devotional with you.*

*Christmas is such a special time to
celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and
love that God brings to our lives
through the birth of our Savior and
Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*We love you and are thankful for the
opportunity to serve you!*

*Pastor Brian Adams
Julie Fink
Josie Bailey*

WEEK 1: HOPE

HOPE –
the feeling of expectation and desire
for a certain thing to happen

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel.”
(Which means, God with us).” Matthew 1:23*

JESUS BRINGS HOPE

The birth of Jesus meant that God keeps His promises. God promised in the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14) to send a Son who would come to earth to represent Him on this earth. The Israelite people had been waiting a very long time for this promise to come true. They believed it would happen because they trusted God to be faithful to His Word.

LOOK FOR HOPE

As Christmas approaches, what are you looking forward to? A new toy? Family visiting? Putting up the Christmas tree? Seeing Christmas lights? Chances are you are looking forward to these things because someone you trust has promised that they would happen.

Looking forward to things that someone has promised us is what having HOPE is all about. God’s Word is filled with the promises of things that are possible with God – this is what makes being a Christian such an exciting adventure!

God sent Jesus to be the Savior of this world. He sent Him as a baby, born to a virgin, and His HOPE is that everyone who hears the Christmas story would feel His presence and place their faith in His beloved Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HOPE

Do you believe that God can be trusted?
Do you know anything that God has
promised you in His Word? Did you
know that God sent Jesus to be the
HOPE of this world?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sing “O Holy Night”
Share the HOPE of Christ
with at least one neigh-
bor or friend this week

WEEK 2: PEACE

PEACE –
freedom from disturbance; tranquility

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!”
Luke 2:14*

JESUS BRINGS PEACE

The angels were sent to proclaim the message of PEACE to those on this earth that will accept that Jesus has been sent to be the Savior of this world.

As a matter of fact, the Bible calls Jesus the Prince of Peace in Isaiah 9:6. Jesus has come to bring the sinner to a state of being at peace with God, and the saved person the wisdom to avoid unnecessary contention with the people around them.

LOOK FOR PEACE

Peace is a feeling we have when we believe that everything is going to be okay. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, we feel peace with our relationship with God. We don't feel like God is mad at us anymore because of our sin debt.

Salvation also helps us to experience peace with others. It helps us to know how to deal with others when we have conflict with them. Jesus teaches us to pray and then to learn to respond in humble, respectful ways.

The key to peace is to keep our minds fixed on the presence of God in our lives.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PEACE

How can you bring peace to your home during this Christmas season?

What are some of the things we do to disturb the peace of others? Why do you think we do these things?

Did you know that praying about the things that bother you is a wonderful way to feel the peace of God?

Have you trusted Christ as your Savior?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sing “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Talk about the plan of salvation.

Make a prayer list of concerns.

Pray daily about them.

WEEK 3: JOY

JOY –
the feeling of great pleasure
and happiness

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

*“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”
Matthew 2:11*

JESUS BRINGS JOY

The wise men were so excited about the news that God sent Jesus to be born! They were sent on a mission to find him, and they were told that there would be a special star in the sky to lead them to where the baby Jesus was.

They were looking forward to the birth of Jesus. They thought he would become their King and deliver them from their enemies.

LOOK FOR JOY

When the wise men saw the star, they felt so happy! JOY is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.

People decorate for Christmas as an expression of the JOY they feel about this season’s festivities. They decorate trees, their homes, and their yards in a way that clearly displays the Christmas message that brings them the most joy.

Listening to Christmas music is another way many people enjoy the JOY of Christmas. Christmas music makes them feel happy because it reminds them that God is with them.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT JOY

Does your family decorate for Christmas?

What are some of your favorite decorations? What part of Christmas makes you feel the happiest?

Is celebrating the message of the birth of Jesus represented in your decorations? Did you know that God can use your Christmas decorations to spread the good news of the real Christmas message?

Are you looking forward to rejoicing over the birth of Christ on Christmas morning?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sing “O Holy Night”
Share the HOPE of Christ
with at least one friend
or neighbor this week.

WEEK 4: LOVE

LOVE –
an intense feeling of deep affection

Scripture Reading: John 3:16; Romans 5:8; I John 4:9-10

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16*

JESUS BRINGS LOVE

Christmas is all LOVE.

It's about God's love for the people of this world. He loves them in a very special way because He was the One who created them.

Did you know that you were created by God? It's true! He created you and loves you more than even your family does!

LOOK FOR LOVE

Most people associate Christmas with gifts, and this is a very good thing. Christmas is all about God giving the gift of His Son to be the Savior of this world.

LOVE is the greatest gift we can give and receive. As a matter of fact, God loves us so much that He wants us to live forever with Him in Heaven!

Love is more than a feeling. It is an action and it always involves sacrifice (which involves giving up something that is special to you).

One of the ways we show God that we love Him is by making time to read His Word, pray, and attend church on Sunday.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LOVE

Who do you love? How do you show your love to them?

Have you ever given up something special for someone else?

How does God show His love? Have you ever felt the love of God?

Do you feel loved by your family members?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sing “Joy to the World”

Make a list of special people that you love.

Write down something special you can do to show them that you love them.

CHRISTMAS EVE

CELEBRATING –
the miraculous birth of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:11-14

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Enjoy the presents, the meal, and the family time – but don’t let all that celebrating cause you to forget that the birth of Jesus is the real reason for the celebration!

FOCUS ON JESUS

Incorporate the reading of the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) into your family celebrations. Take time to talk about what that first Christmas morning must have been like.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a holiday that has become focused on Santa and getting gifts.

How did Santa become a part of this holiday? If you don’t know, it would be a fun thing to find out.

Why do you think the world want to celebrate something other than Jesus on Christmas Day?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sing “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Bake a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas morning and give a special gift to Him.

Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20.

Christmas is about God
sending Jesus Christ to become
“Emmanuel, God with us.”

It is a message of **Hope**.

It is a message of **Joy**.

It is a message of **Peace**.

It is a message of **Love**.

**It is the story of the
birth of our Savior.**

The One who will live to die
for the payment of our sins,
so that we can spend
eternity with Him.