



AN  
ADVENT

*Devotional*

\* UNWRAPPING \*  
\* the Names \*  
\* OF \*  
Jesus

ASHERITAH CIUCIU



\* MOODY PUBLISHERS \*  
CHICAGO

WEEK ONE  
ADVENT CELEBRATION



# HOPE

*In preparation for your devotional time, you may want to scan the order of events below. If you are going through this devotional with your family, you can print out the questions and Scripture readings on separate slips of paper and distribute them among your family members in order to involve everyone. Most of these components are simple enough for even small children to read alone or with help.*

OPEN WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE ON YOUR ADVENT WREATH

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD:

“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world . . . Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.’” — John 8:12

SOMEONE ASKS:

Why do we light this candle?



SOMEONE RESPONDS:

This candle reminds us of the promise that a Messiah would come, bringing peace and love to the world.

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD:

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” — Isaiah 9:2

TAKE TURNS READING THROUGH THIS PORTION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

Isaiah 9:2–7



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God planned Jesus’ arrival thousands of years before it happened. What does that tell us about God?
2. How does Jesus’ light in our world give us hope?
3. In what ways can we allow Jesus’ light to shine through us?

SING THE FOLLOWING CAROL TOGETHER:

Silent Night

*As you read the daily devotions this week, light the first candle and thank Jesus for being our Hope.*



WEEK TWO  
ADVENT CELEBRATION



# PREPARATION

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OPEN WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

LIGHT THE FIRST TWO CANDLES ON YOUR ADVENT WREATH

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD:

“In [Jesus] was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:4–5

SOMEONE ASKS:

Why do we light the second candle?



SOMEONE RESPONDS:

The second candle reminds us that the prophets waited for a Messiah to come and save the people.

READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE ALOUD:

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”  
— Isaiah 40:3–5

TAKE TURNS READING THROUGH THIS PORTION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

Luke 1:26–38



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God wanted His people to be ready for the coming Messiah, so He sent prophets throughout history to remind them to prepare their hearts. He also sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for Jesus’ coming. What does this tell us about God?
2. How can we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

SING THE FOLLOWING CAROL TOGETHER:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*As you read the daily devotions this week, light the first two candles and thank Jesus for being the Answer.*

WEEK THREE  
ADVENT CELEBRATION



# JOY

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OPEN IN PRAYER

LIGHT THE FIRST THREE CANDLES ON YOUR ADVENT WREATH

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD:

“Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.” — Psalm 97:11–12

SOMEONE ASKS:

Why do we light the third candle?



SOMEONE RESPONDS:

The third candle reminds us that Jesus' birth brings joy

to all who believe in Him, so we join all of creation in celebrating Him.

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES ALOUD:

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child and his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped him.”  
— Matthew 2:10–11

TAKE TURNS READING THROUGH THIS PORTION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

Luke 2:1–7



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Jesus was born, God sent angels to announce Jesus’ birth and also a star to celebrate. The wise men saw the star and traveled a long way to find and worship Jesus. What do these acts tell us about God?
2. How does the birth of Jesus give us joy?
3. In what ways can we spread the joy of Christmas to others?

SING THE FOLLOWING CAROL TOGETHER

Joy to the World

*As you read your daily devotions this week, light three candles and thank Jesus for being our Joy.*

WEEK FOUR  
ADVENT CELEBRATION



# LOVE

*In preparation for your family devotional time, you may want to print out the questions and Scripture readings on separate slips of paper. Then you can distribute them among your family members in order to involve everyone. Most of these components are simple enough for even small children to read alone or with help. It's important for each member of your family to be able to participate in some way in this celebration.*

OPEN IN PRAYER

LIGHT THE FIRST FOUR CANDLES ON YOUR ADVENT WREATH

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD:

“The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light. They live in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.” — Isaiah 9:2

SOMEONE ASKS:

Why do we light the fourth candle?



SOMEONE RESPONDS:

The fourth candle reminds us that God demonstrated

His love by sending His Son Jesus to be born in a manger and suffer and die for our sins, so we may live forever with Him.

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD:

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

TAKE TURNS READING THROUGH THIS PORTION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

Luke 2:8–20



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God could have wiped out all humans and started over, but He chose to sacrifice Jesus so He could rescue us. What does this tell us about God?
2. How does the birth of Jesus show us God’s love?
3. In what ways can we allow God’s love to pour out through us into the lives of others?

SING THE FOLLOWING CAROL TOGETHER

Away in a Manger

*As you read your daily devotions this week, light four candles and thank Jesus for being our Love.*

YOUR CELEBRATION  
OF



# CHRISTMAS DAY

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OPEN IN PRAYER

LIGHT THE ALL FIVE CANDLES ON YOUR ADVENT WREATH

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” — 2 Corinthians 4:6

SOMEONE ASKS:

Why do we light the fifth candle?



SOMEONE RESPONDS:

The fifth candle shows us that the waiting is over. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is born!

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSE ALOUD:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”  
— John 1:14

TAKE TURNS READING THROUGH THIS PORTION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

Luke 2:1–40



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The eternal God entered this world as a baby in a manger, as a Gift for all people: rich and poor, educated and unschooled, young and old. What does this tell us about God?
2. How can we respond to God’s great gift?

SING THE FOLLOWING CAROL TOGETHER

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

