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FONDREN CHURCH

2021

Advent Guide

to help you celebrate the
coming of Jesus Christ



*What is Advent
and what's it
all about?*

*Advent is
made up of
four weeks*

HOPE - Week of
Sunday, November 28
written by Jon Wood

PEACE - Week of
Sunday, December 5
written by Chris Mixon

JOY - Week of
Sunday, December 12
written by Lauren Luckey

LOVE- Week of
Sunday, December 19
written by Daniel Wagner

HOPE

A Thrill of Hope, The Weary World Rejoices.

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15

After God created the universe and all that is in it, He declared it all good. He then created Man in His own image and declared that very good. Men and women were created to live in harmony with God, to walk with Him, to enjoy His unveiled presence and to worship Him perfectly. But then, Eve sinned and her husband, Adam, along with her. They broke the fellowship that they had with God because they disobeyed Him and thought they needed more than God had offered them. From that terrible day forward, nothing has been the same. Sin has broken everything as it permeated all creation, and we feel its effects in every possible way. Adam and Eve's sin, however, did not catch God off guard, leaving Him to come up with Plan B. In fact, it was all part of God's plan to redeem a people for Himself, to show His glory and supremacy over all things by sending His Son, Jesus into the world as the Way, the Truth and the Life, apart from Whom no one is saved. And that is what Genesis 3:15 is all about. It is the first prophecy in the Bible about how Jesus will come to defeat Satan, how He will come to suffer, and how He will come to destroy sin and death. In the middle of one of the darkest parts of the Bible, God offers us hope.

PEACE

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Christmas can be a time of many emotions: happiness, nostalgia, and love. No matter what you may feel during the Christmas season, there's someone who can bring you eternal and lasting peace. This "someone" is named Jesus. The world was far from peaceful when Jesus arrived. He didn't pretend that everything was fine. He knew that things were bad and would get worse. And yet still, He preached peace. How?

In the last meal Jesus had with his followers—hundreds of years after Isaiah talked about a prince of peace, and decades after the angels talked about peace for all people—Jesus talked about a different kind of peace... Jesus wasn't talking about a peace that had to do with the right people being in power, the wrong people being out of power, and everything falling into place. Jesus was talking about a peace that wasn't based on circumstances at all. How do we know? Because Jesus told His disciples this hours away from His own arrest and death. If He were talking about a peace that only happened when everything worked out perfectly, He never would've said what He did. He knew what was coming and still, He looked His disciples in the eye and said, "You can have peace."

JOY

Luke 2:8-11

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

On July 22, 2013, the eyes of the world were waiting to get a glimpse of baby George, the first born son of William and Kate, the famous British royals. Cameras and pageantry surrounded this baby's birth but even that grand occasion couldn't compare to the announcement that accompanied the birth of Jesus! Take a moment and think, use your imagination and wonder... what would it have been like to stand with these shepherds the night the message came?

LOVE

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7

In Christmas, we see Jesus Christ step down from heaven to "move into the neighborhood". We see Christ, that existed for eternity past and will exist forevermore, choose to live a life on earth for 30-something years. I can't image how nice heaven is. I think we all have our own pictures of what we think it'll be like. Streets of gold. Mansions. Angels flying around. Those are often the images that come to our mind. I do know this, living in heaven is better than living on the Earth. We know it's a place of perfection, rest, and joy. Try as hard as we may - even at Christmas - anyone reading this knows that even at it's best life on Earth can often come up short of constant perfection, true rest, and deep joy.

So why on Earth would Christ leave heaven?
Only because of love.

It's a love that I cannot fully comprehend, but one that we can understand and grow to imitate more and more over time.

Resources for Families

here are some suggested activities for families with kids at home to do together each week of Advent!

HOPE

Make a Christmas card for someone who does not love and trust Jesus. Wish them a merry Christmas and use a Bible verse to remind them that Jesus came to save them.

Talk about how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) and then play hide and seek throughout your house.

People don't always hear our words, but they do notice our actions. Leave a tangible reminder for people as our way of sharing the love and hope of God. Do something like tape candy canes to ATMs or your neighbors' doors with a note that has a verse like this "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

PEACE

"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another" Romans 14:19. show your neighbors that you care about them! Make your favorite cookies, bag them up with a short note and deliver them to your neighbors!

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" Romans 12:18. Make a new friend at school today, have a conversation with someone that you wouldn't usually spend time with!

JOY

John 8:12 tells us that Jesus is the light of the world and whoever has Him won't walk in darkness. Light attracts people and lights their way. Talk about how Jesus is the light of the world while you take your family on a drive to go see Christmas lights!

Spread some joy to your neighbors by going caroling with your family and friends!

LOVE

Loneliness is often hits people the hardest during Christmas. Take some time to love someone who is hurting by taking dinner to or eating dinner with someone who is lonely.

Write a letter to Jesus expressing your love by thanking Him for all of the good things He has given you throughout the year.

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*Join us on
Christmas Eve!*

Friday December 24

3:30pm & 5:00pm

