

# ADVENT

A Family Conversation



OUR PURPOSEFUL LIFE





# ADVENT

## A Family Conversation

### Introduction

Advent is the annual countdown to Christmas. It starts four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. Christmas is such a special time of year for a family with kids. It is an amazing opportunity to build memories that you will all cherish forever. But it is busy!! We have found that you have to be purposeful if you are going to keep Christ at the center of your Christmas celebrations. We hope that this simple advent tradition will become one of the highlights of your season.

Our goal with **Family Conversations** is very simple: to start or continue a conversation! We say 'continue' because most topics in life should be an ongoing conversation with your children. Not one and done. Our hope is that your family will create an atmosphere where questions are welcomed and answers are discovered together. Join the discussion today!

### PREPARATION: THINGS TO PURCHASE OR GATHER

- Candles: 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white. Plus a holder for the candles.
- Lighter or matches
- Way to play music. It can either be your phone, CD or YouTube
- Bible—Use your favorite version. Our favorites for family time are NIV and NLT

### ORDER OF THE CEREMONY

- Light the candle and read what it represents. On weeks 2-4 you will light the previous candles before you begin.
- Read the Scriptures listed out of your own Bible.
- Sing the Christmas Song either acapella or by singing along with music. The songs can be found online or played on your favorite instrument.
- Say the prayer to conclude your time together as a family.
- Throughout the week look up the additional scriptures and continue the conversation about what the candle for that week represented. Discuss what you learned about Jesus and how that affects your individual lives.

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# FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## Gift of Hope

### Introduction

The first week of Advent is a reminder that God gives us hope. Think about how to make this real for your kids - what are they hoping for this Christmas or in the upcoming year? How has God given you hope? How does Jesus' birth give us hope? Follow the order below, and make sure to give everyone in the family a part to play.

**You will light a purple candle this week.**

### RESOURCES NEEDED

- Candles: 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white
- Lighter or matches
- Way to play music
- Bible

### ORDER

- Light the candle and read what it represents
- Read the Scriptures
- Sing the Christmas Song
- Say the prayer
- Throughout the week look up the additional scriptures

### CANDLELIGHTING

I light this candle on the first Sunday in Advent to remind us of the gift of hope. The people of Israel had been hoping for a Savior for thousands of years when baby Jesus was born in that stable. Today we are reminded that Jesus is our true hope for today, tomorrow, and forever!

### SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-15  
Isaiah 9:2, 6

### SONG: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Song of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of hope! Help us remember that no matter what happens, you have promised to be with us. We have hope because we have You! We praise you for sending Jesus to earth as Emmanuel, God with us, and to give us hope.  
In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Psalm 45:5  
Romans 8:18-25  
Romans 15:4, 13  
1 Timothy 4:10  
Hebrews 10:23-25



# SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## Gift of Life

### Introduction

The second candle reminds us of the “gift of life.” You can remind your kids that we can be thankful that God sent His Son to this earth to die for our sins so that we can live with God in Heaven forever. If they are older, you can also talk about the **quality** of the life that we can live with Him on earth right now. The life He gives us is not just long, it is also deep and rich. You can talk to your kids about the way that God can give us 'Real Life' or 'True Life.' This life we live now is meaningful, rich, and wonderful because of the meaning that He gives to every moment. You can talk about what we can do with the life He has given us.

**Before you begin your time of Advent make sure you light last week's purple candle. You will light a second purple candle this week.**

### RESOURCES NEEDED

- Candles: 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white
- Lighter or matches
- Way to play music
- Bible

### ORDER

- Light the candle and read what it represents
- Read the Scriptures
- Sing the Christmas Song
- Say the prayer
- Throughout the week look up the additional scriptures

### CANDLELIGHTING

I light this candle on the second Sunday in Advent to remind us of the gift of life. God is the Creator of life, and He has given us new life through the life that Jesus lived on earth.

### SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1  
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

### SONG: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above the deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark street shineth  
The everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for life! You have formed us and created us, and you have given us new life through the life and death and resurrection of Your Son! We can be born again because Jesus was born in the stable, 2,000 years ago. We choose to live for You. In Jesus' Name. Amen

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

John 3:14-16  
John 4:13-15  
John 5:24  
John 6:35-40  
Romans 5:21  
Romans 6:22-23



# THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## Gift of Freedom

### Introduction

The third candle reminds us of the “gift of freedom.” I am so thankful that through Christ we can be free from the bondage of sin. I am thankful that we live in a country that we can still worship and serve God freely. In some traditions the third week of Advent is the “gift of joy.” We can be joyful because of the freedom that we have been given. If you are comfortable you can share an area where God has given you freedom, such as anxiety or insecurity. You can ask them if they wish they could be free from anything, like peer pressure, negative thoughts, or bad habits.

Bottom Line: Jesus said he came to bring freedom: What does that look like for us?

**Before you begin your time of advent make sure you light the last two week’s purple candles. You will light the pink candle this week.**

### RESOURCES NEEDED

- Candles: 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white
- Lighter or matches
- Way to play music
- Bible

### ORDER

- Light the candle and read what it represents
- Read the Scriptures
- Sing the Christmas Song
- Say the prayer
- Throughout the week look up the additional scriptures

### CANDLELIGHTING

I light this candle on the third Sunday in Advent to remind us of the gift of freedom. Jesus’ obedience to His Father gave Him freedom from sin and fear and even death. We remember that when Jesus came to earth, He came to win back our freedom that had been lost in the Garden of Eden.

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26-33  
Luke 1:39-45

### SONG: O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth.  
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining  
Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices  
From yonder breaks a new and glorious  
voice.  
Fall on your knees. O hear the angels’ voices  
O night divine; O night when Christ was  
born.  
O night divine O night, O holy night.

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, only You can bring true freedom to Your children! We thank you that you are setting us free from sin, sickness, fear, anxiety, and everything that comes against your plan for us! We want to obey You so that we can be set free!  
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Luke 4:18-19  
1 Peter 1:8  
Galatians 5:1  
John 8:36  
2 Corinthians 3:17-18



# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## Gift of Love

### Introduction

The fourth candle reminds us of the “gift of love.” The Bible says that “God Is Love,” so the baby in the manger was Love in human form. You can ask your kids if they can think of any Bible stories where God’s love is shown. You can also ask them how they can show love to each other, to you, to your friends and neighbors, and to people at school who are difficult to love. You can also remind them that God loves us just because we are His kids, not because of anything we do or say. For older kids you can ask them how that knowledge (that He loves me no matter what) can change the way we think and act. We can stand out in this world if we know that we are loved, and if we show that love to others!

**Before you begin your time of advent make sure you light the last two purple candles and the pink candle. You will light the final purple candle this week.**

### RESOURCES NEEDED

- Candles: 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white
- Lighter or matches
- Way to play music
- Bible

### SONG: SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin mother and Child  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!”

### ORDER

- Light the candle and read what it represents
- Read the Scriptures
- Sing the Christmas Song
- Say the prayer
- Throughout the week look up the additional scriptures

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of love! You are love, and You love us no matter what. Thank You for sending Jesus to demonstrate Your love. We love You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen

### CANDLELIGHTING

I light this candle on the fourth Sunday in Advent to remind us of the gift of love. God is love, and He loves us no matter what. And now we are called to love one another.

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 1-14  
John 3:16

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Galatians 5:14  
Ephesians 2:4-5  
Ephesians 3:16-19





# CHRISTMAS EVE IN ADVENT

## Christ Candle

### Introduction

The Christ Candle reminds us that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas, and He is the Christ. "Christ" means the "Anointed One," which highlights the fact that Jesus is the King, and He is the Messiah who came to save His people. We have been getting ready for this day for nearly a month, and tomorrow we will finally celebrate Jesus' birth! Just like the shepherds and the angels and later the Wise Men, we can worship Him, bring Him gifts, and tell others about Him. You can remind your kids of the previous weeks: Hope, Life, Freedom, and Love. You can ask them what they remember from those discussions, or which is their favorite. You can ask them how we can make Jesus the King or "Anointed One" in our lives and in our home...this Christmas, and all year long.

**Before you begin your time of advent make sure you light all 3 purple candles and the pink candle. You will light the center white candle today.**

### RESOURCES NEEDED

- Candles: 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white
- Lighter or matches
- Way to play music
- Bible

### ORDER

- Light the candle and read what it represents
- Read the Scriptures
- Sing the Christmas Song
- Say the prayer
- Throughout the week look up the additional scriptures

### CANDLELIGHTING

I light this candle on Christmas Eve to remind us that Jesus is our King and our Messiah. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God! He came to earth on Christmas, and He will come again!

### SCRIPTURE

John 8:12  
Luke 4:14-21

### SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for sending Jesus to be the Christ, our King! It is such good news! We are so excited that we can serve You and love You. Thank you for the gifts of Hope, Life, Freedom, and Love that we find in You. Bless us this Christmas, and help us to be a blessing! We love You!  
In Jesus' Name, Amen!

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Matthew 24:42, 44  
Acts 1:10-11  
Philippians 1:6  
Hebrews 10:24-25  
Revelations 22:12-13, 20