

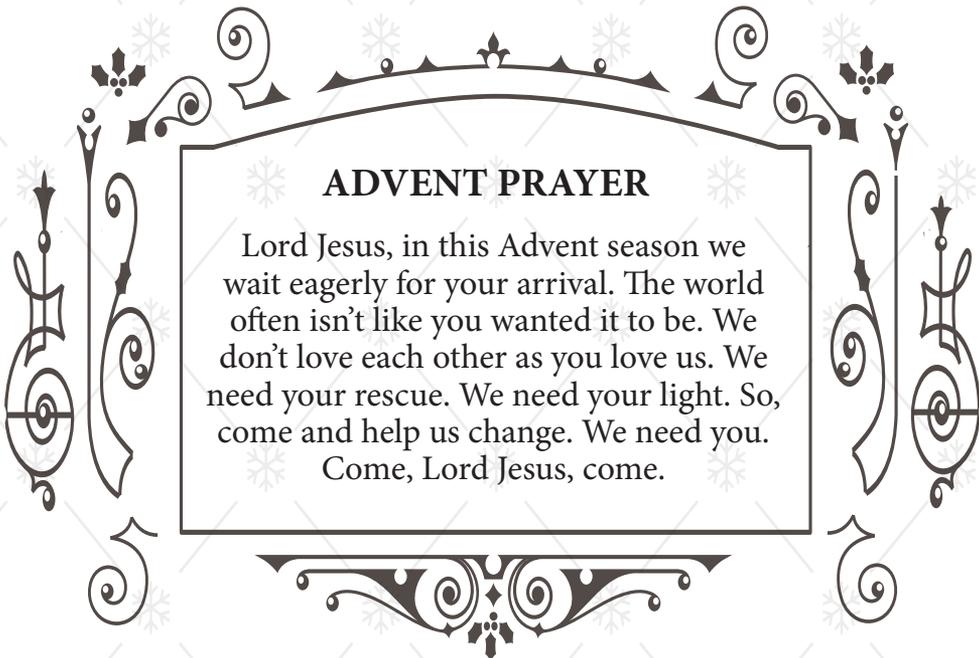
FULFILLED

A FAMILY
ADVENT READING
GUIDE

FEARLESS
FOLLOWER



WHAT IS ADVENT?



ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in this Advent season we wait eagerly for your arrival. The world often isn't like you wanted it to be. We don't love each other as you love us. We need your rescue. We need your light. So, come and help us change. We need you. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

This season brings much anticipation for family, friends, time off and gifts! It is also a season that can produce stress, anxiety and busyness. Amidst this time of joy and chaos, Advent invites us to approach the Christmas season in a different way. Advent is a part of the Christian calendar and has been celebrated throughout the history of the Church. Advent is a time of waiting and anticipating the arrival of Jesus Christ.

The four weeks of Advent celebrate God's breaking in and rescue of our fallen world. Advent asks us to slow down, wait and anticipate the ways that Christ needs to break into our lives.

Take time as a family to read through the verses in this guide and reflect on them throughout the week. Use the questions to start conversations that will help prepare your hearts for the arrival of our KING!



ARE YOU READY?

Make a list of the things we do to get ready for Christmas.

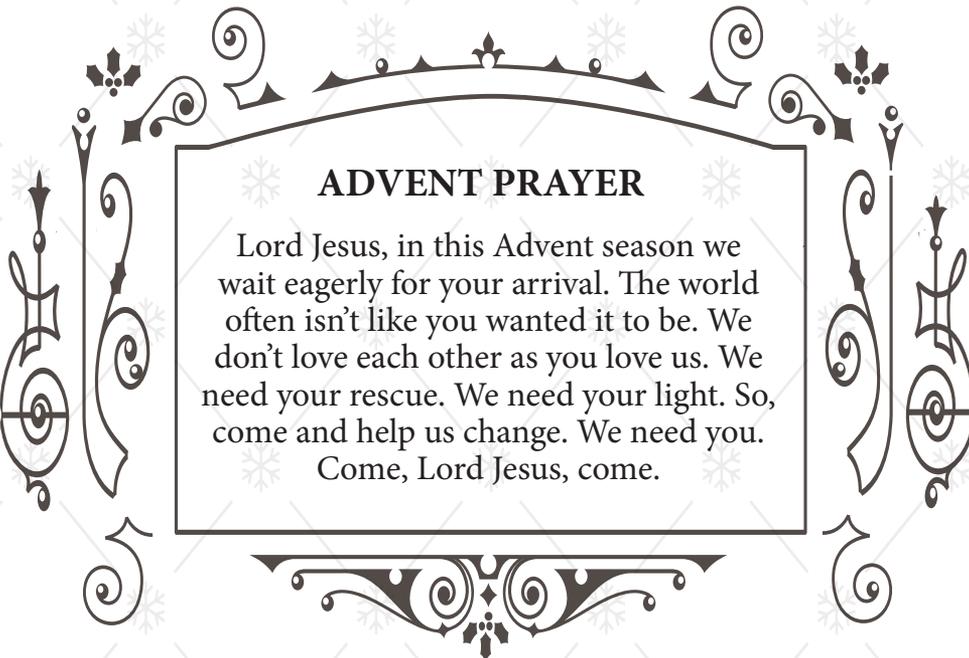
What are you looking forward to this Christmas?

A toy? Seeing family? A new Christmas outfit?

Ephesians 5:14 tells us to wake up and get ready for Jesus.

How can we get ready for Jesus?

As a family, design and decorate a placemat for Jesus. Make a space for Jesus at your dining room table and over dinner talk about how you can, as a family, get ready for Jesus this Advent season. Use the placemat as a centerpiece for your table or leave Jesus' seat open as a reminder for the rest of Advent.



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“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

-Ephesians 5:14-16

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- Romans 13:11-12

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

- Mark 13:33-37

NOV 27 - DEC 3



WHERE DO YOU
FINDHOPE?

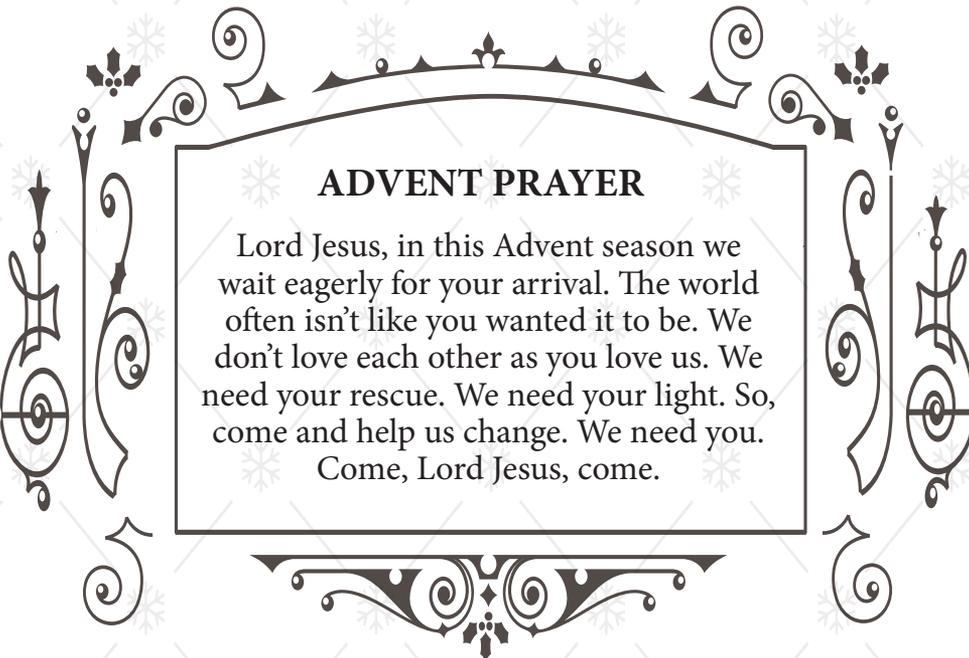
What do you hope will happen this Christmas?

What does Romans 15:12-13 say about what Jesus is going to do in the future?

What are you hoping He will do?

As a family, think of creative ways that you can bring hope to someone else this Advent season (make a Christmas card, bake some cookies, buy a pack of winter gloves from the convenience store). Then, give these items away to people you encounter this advent season (e.g., cashiers, baristas, waitresses, etc.)

Include the passage of Romans 15:12-13 with a note that reads: "Jesus is the hope of the world, we pray this brings you joy this Christmas season."



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And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 15:12-13

I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I

provide for it.

- Jeremiah 33:7-9

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our

refuge.

- Psalm 62:5-8

DECEMBER 4-10



WHERE DO YOU NEED RESCUE?

In what ways is sin like being sick?

Where have you seen the effects of sin in your family (broken relationships, selfishness, pride, division, etc)?

In Mark 2:1-12, what did Jesus do for the sick man?

How does Jesus rescue and forgive us from our sin?

Empty out an old medicine bottle and take off the old label. Make a new label that reads "Rescue" and place it on the bottle. Then have each member of your family answer the following on small slips of paper:

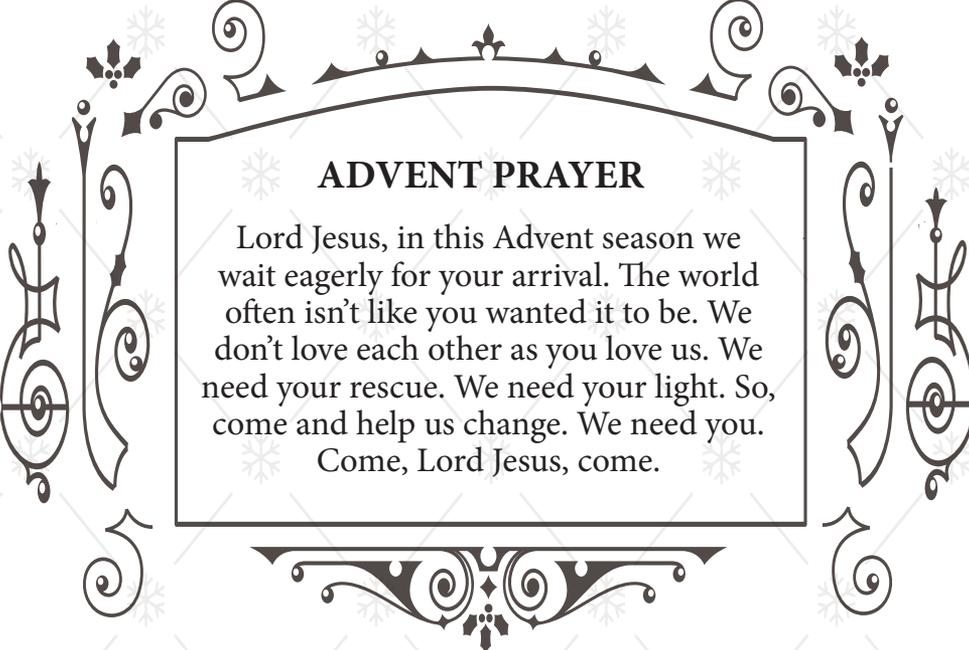
Where do I need rescue in my life?

Who do I know that needs rescue in their life?

Where do we need rescue in our world?

Place the slips of paper in the bottle and place the bottle somewhere visible to everyone in the house (e.g., on the mantle, on the tree, on the table).

Instruct your family to pray for rescue everytime they look at the bottle.



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A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man,
“Son, your sins are forgiven.”

- Mark 2:1-12

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

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- Col 1:13-14

DECEMBER 11-17



WHERE DO YOU NEED LIGHT?

Are you afraid of the dark? What is it like to walk in the dark?

Read Isaiah 9:2-3. Who are the people? What is the darkness?
How does Jesus bring light to darkness? Where do you see darkness in your own life?

Drive to a nearby neighborhood that has a lot of houses decorated in Christmas lights. Ask your family to make observations about the homes and the trees (e.g., how do the light make the houses look, what do the lights do to the neighborhood, etc.). Ask your family to answer the following questions:

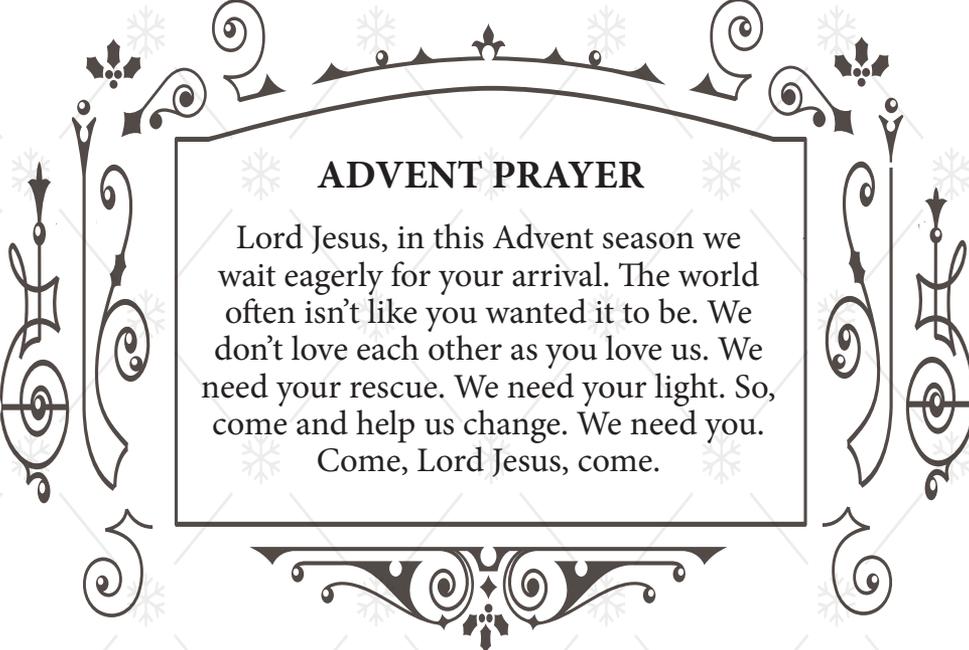
What would the houses and trees look like without the lights?

What would the neighborhood look like without the lights?

What would our lives look like without the light of Jesus?

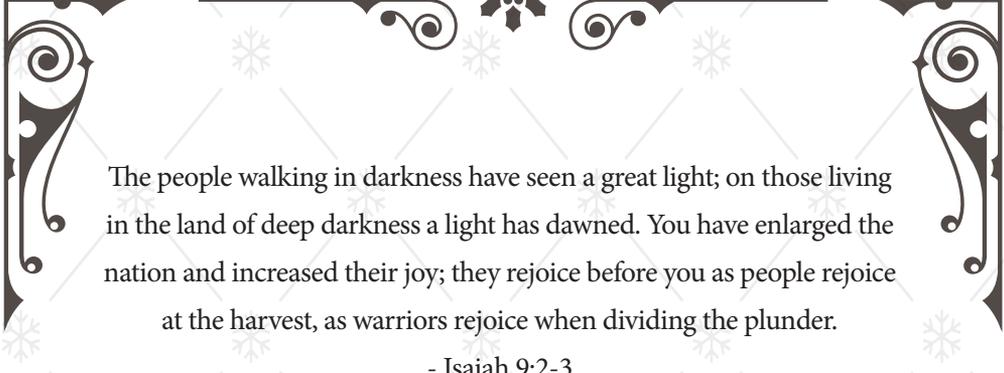
Read John 1:1-5 and pray; thanking God for Jesus.

How can we be a light for Christ is a dark place?



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The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

- Isaiah 9:2-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him 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 1:1-5

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

-John 8:12



DECEMBER 18-24

FULFILLED

THIS CHRISTMAS
AT RIDGE POINT:
JESUS FULFILLS GOD'S PROMISES

DECEMBER 3-4
THE MISSION OF THE CHILD

DECEMBER 10-11
THE MYSTERY OF THE CHILD

DECEMBER 17-18
THE MOCKERY OF THE CHILD

DECEMBER 24 AT 1PM, 3PM & 5PM
THE MEANING OF THE CHILD

NO SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY

DEC 31 AT 6PM - JAN 1 AT 11AM ONLY
GUEST SPEAKER REN BROEKHUIZEN

FEARLESS
FOLLOWER