



Devotions

Advent 2005



A Special Word to Families

Christian family traditions are of great importance in the character formation of children. They will help develop Christian attitudes, habits, and values as your children grow and form their own families. Family traditions are strong ties that help to weave the family together. Gathering the family together each day during the Advent season to sing, pray, study God's Word, and share may be the most important gift you give your children this year. You may also find that your family enjoys it so much that you will want to continue daily family worship after the Advent season is past.

Use a modern translation of the Bible. It will help children understand and participate in the Scripture reading. Even very young children can learn the carols as you repeat them day after day. Young children enjoy and learn from role-playing. The visits from the angel and the wise men are very adaptable to this. They will also enjoy acting out the carols. Take time to help them appreciate what is happening and to put themselves in the story.

Families with teenagers can profit much from additional Scripture study, learning more about our Christmas heritage, and discussion. You might discuss reasons God sent Christ to earth, how Christ must have felt to leave heaven, the things that went through Joseph's mind before the angel set him straight, why we don't need special messages from angels today, and the many other things you will think of. Encourage children to recall and tell what they remember about past Christmases. As a family, you might enjoy reviewing [review and evaluate!]: Good things about our Christmas—to keep! Bad things about our Christmas—to drop! Puzzling things about our Christmas—to think about!

Christmas toys will break and clothes will soon be outgrown, but the gift of your time together as a family, preparing your heart will be lasting.