



Devotions

Advent 2005



What To Do?

Each day when your family is gathered together, say, "Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.'" Then light the appropriate candles saying their names as they are lit. Especially on Sunday evenings, when a new candle is lit for the first time, take a few moments to talk together about the significance of that candle.

Then read the Scripture in the guide. After the Scripture, read the devotional thought. Talk together as a family about what you have read. Incorporate some singing of favorite Christmas carols, as children usually love to sing. Then close in prayer. Include everyone in the prayer time. One way to do that is to pray for the people you received Christmas cards from that day.

Make it fun!

Probably the most important thing to bear in mind is that this is a time for you to be together as a family — so, keep it fun! To find out whether you are succeeding, do your children look forward to it, or groan when you say it is time for Advent. Don't expect them to enjoy a long dry time when they are scolded for not paying attention. Allow the children, if they are old enough, to light and blow out the candles, to read the Scriptures, and to participate in every way possible. They will love having a special part in your Advent family devotional time.

Make Christmas Eve the most special time of all. Don't let last minute shopping and wrapping of gifts crowd out this wonderful opportunity to spend time focusing on the birth of our Savior together as a family.

And don't forget to have your Advent devotion BEFORE you start tearing into presents on Christmas morning. After all, the most important gift of all is Jesus Christ, Son of God, King of Kings, and Lord of all!

Additional Suggestions

Decorate your Christmas tree with the daily Advent Scriptures. Write them on slips of paper each day and hang them on the tree. Let the children look up the Scripture for each day to start family worship. If you have Christmas music, play it through Advent. Take time to learn the words to all the verses of the Christmas carols. They have a great message. Handel's Messiah is unequalled for Scriptural



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content and majesty. If you don't have this music, why not purchase it as a gift to yourself?

Here are still further ideas:

Make an Advent collage using pictures you find or draw.

Buy or make gifts for the needy during the Advent Season.

Have a birthday party for Jesus.

Include friends and guests in Advent devotions.

Use or make an Advent calendar.

If your family is large or if you have several close friends, you might enjoy drawing names within the group and all during Advent do special things for that secret friend. The names can be revealed on Christmas Eve.

Special family recipes or a family cookie-baking session can be great fun and a meaningful memory making tradition. If you don't have a family, invite in friends or neighborhood children. As you bake, use the opportunity to share the joy of Christ's birth.

It is especially appropriate that in the Advent season we help those who don't have anything to eat. Consider setting aside extra dollars to provide relief for another family. What would happen if we dared match every dollar spent on gifts with a dollar for missions?

As you wrap the gifts and send Christmas cards, pray for the persons who will receive them. And again pray for those from whom you receive cards each day.

Most of all, remember what Christmas is all about. As you make material preparations, prepare your heart for the coming of the King!