

Advent

The Advent season is a time to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth and to await his Second Coming. During the Advent season, we can reflect on the choices we make and recommit ourselves to living as God wants us to live. By doing this we show how much it means to us that God came among us as a human being.



Prayer

God of hope, help us prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.



God's Promise

Advent is a season of joyful waiting. This waiting for a Savior began long ago when God decided to form a people of his own.

In the days of the Old Testament, Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were living comfortably in the city of Haran. They were ready to live out their lives in this familiar place. Then God came to Abraham and told him to travel with Sarah to the new land of Canaan, many miles away.

adapted from Genesis 12:1–6

For Abraham and Sarah to obey God's command, they had to leave behind their relatives, their friends, and their home. This was not easy to do. God, however, promised Abraham and Sarah that they would become the first of a Chosen People. The Savior whom God would send into the world would be Abraham's descendant.

Fulfillment in Jesus

In their new home, Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants—the Jews—waited for thousands of years for God to fulfill his promise of Salvation. Mary, one of Abraham's descendants, gave birth to Jesus. God's promise of Salvation was fulfilled.

The Advent Wreath

One way to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth is to light candles on an Advent wreath. The circular shape of the Advent wreath reminds us that God's love is unending. The greenery reminds us of the hope of eternal life. As we light each candle, we remember that we are one week closer to Christmas. You can make an Advent wreath with your family by following the directions below each picture.

A Prayer of Hope

On the lines below, write a prayer of hope that your family can pray together around your Advent wreath.



1

Make a wreath of Christmas greens.



2

Place four candles around the wreath.



3

Light one candle each Sunday in Advent. (Light the pink candle on the third Sunday.)



Prayer Service

Leader: *Let us listen to God's Word.*

Reader: *A reading from the Book of Genesis.*

[Genesis 12:1–2]

The Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: *In gratitude for all who helped
prepare the world for Jesus, we
offer our prayers of thanksgiving.*

*For the example of Abraham,
who obeyed your command.*

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: *For the example of Sarah,
who shared his journey.*

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: *For Jesus, the Savior you sent
to your Chosen People.*

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: *Let us go forth now, as we
prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.*

All: *Amen.*

