



A Devotional

Family worship and Activities

Guide

Celebrating Christ

## **How to use this booklet**

This booklet may be used as a guide or followed directly:

Reading of Scripture can be done by the head of the household or ohana group.

Lighting the candle(s) to be done by young adult or older child WITH adult guidance.

Songs are to be sung by everyone with or without music or CD provided.

Discussions are to be done with everyone participating with questions being read by an adult in the family or group.

Activities are to be done by everyone with a young adult or an older child of the group reading the instructions.

Closing prayer to be done by mom or female adult of the household or ohana group. Prayer may be read from this booklet or done on your own.

## **Advent is...Preparing for Jesus**

A time of quiet anticipation...

Take time to be still

Slow down in the midst of our busy preparation and celebration of the Christmas season

Season of Prayer...

Take time to talk with God

Praise, reflect, thank

Repentance...

For Christ to come into our heart, there has to be repentance. Without repentance, our heart is full of worldly things so there is "no room in the inn" (of our hearts)

Candles...

Are symbols of the light of God coming to the world through the birth of Jesus

## First Candle of Advent – Hope

**Read:** Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 1:25-38

*Light* the 1st candle and say:

This candle represents HOPE. Long ago, people had hope in their hearts as they waited for a Savior to come and free them. We celebrate the birth of Jesus and anticipate the coming of Christ, our King, as He will reveal Himself once again. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world coming into the darkness of our lives bringing newness, life and hope. We are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others.

**Discuss:** The meaning of hope and your feelings of anticipation in your life (lives) such as the birth of a baby into your family or to someone you know or the anticipation of an event or something coming.

**Sing:** *“O Come of Ye Faithful”*

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Chorus:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above,  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!      Sing Chorus

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!      Sing Chorus

**Activity:** Make Christmas cards (create your own or use store bought) to send to family, neighbors and friends with whom you want to share the Christmas message of God's love. Or, send the card to someone on your Church's prayer list. Then pray for that person.

**Prayer:** To be read by senior member of your family or ohana group:

*Heavenly Father, you loved us so much you promised a Messiah. You sent Jesus, your Son, for fulfillment of all our deepest hopes and longings. Thank you, Amen*

## **Second Candle of Advent – Peace**

**Read:** Luke 2:8-14, John 14:27- 31, and Isaiah 26:3

*Light* 1st candle and say:

Jesus is our HOPE.

*Light* 2nd candle and say:

This candle represents the peace that only Christ can bring to our lives. Peace does not mean in a safe and quiet place. It means to be in the midst of trouble, noise, and hard work and still be calm in your heart.

Peace is more than the absence of conflicts, hostilities or wars. Worldly peace is shallow and temporary. Sometimes, the world offers peace by means of escape like going to movies or watching television. Some turn to alcohol and drugs to escape from our daily cares and difficulties but these are temporary. Once the so-called peace passes, we become worried, harried people as before.

In Hebrew scripture, “Shalom” means completeness, soundness and peace. It’s a broad concept of wholeness and well-being. Peace can be achieved by submission of one’s self to God – opening ourselves to God’s will and purpose. Peace is a fruit of righteousness; the effect of an upright life and faithfulness to God.

**Discuss:** What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word peace? When was a recent time of peace in your home? What made it so? Are there times in your life (home, school, work, etc.) that you need inner peace? Who can give it to you?

**Sing:** “*Silent Night, Holy 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.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake, at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at They birth.

**Activity:** Make a wreath of hands.

Trace each person’s hands (both right and left) on green paper. You can use one color of green or shades of green paper. Also, you may use a variety of colored paper for the smaller hands as

decoration on the top of the wreath. You can use white paper and color the hands. Cut out the hands. Using a 10" paper plate, cut out circle 4" in diameter in the center of the plate. Glue hands; larger hands on the bottom layers with smaller hands on the top with the fingers facing outward on the paper plate. Attach yarn to back of paper plate to hang your wreath,

**Prayer:** To be read by senior member of your family or ohana group:

*Dear Jesus, help us to trust in you for your peace. Thank you for this assurance. Amen*

### **Third Candle of Advent – Joy**

**Read:** Luke 2:15-20 and John 15:10-11

*Light* the 1st candle and say:  
Jesus is our Hope.

*Light* the 2nd candle and say:  
Jesus is our Hope for Peace.

*Light* the 3rd candle and say:  
This candle represents Joy. Because of Christ, we can have the joy that is promised in God's Word.

Happiness depends on agreeable happenings; an emotion usually directly related to circumstances that are currently happening. It's feelings and emotions that are shallow and fleeting.

Joy depends on a relationship to Christ an inner reality' It's an attitude of the heart. Knowing all is well regardless of our circumstances. It is a fruit of the Spirit. It is of the Lord, is very powerful and is our strength.

**Discuss:** Can we have joy even when things are not going our way? How can we help each other have joy? Have the oldest child or young adult of the family or ohana group read Psalm 100.

**Sing:** *“Joy to the World”*

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

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,

And wonders, and wonders of His love.

**Activity:** Write the word, CHRISTMAS, on a sheet of paper vertically (left side of the sheet). Then write a word for each letter that suggests a kindness you can give to someone else. For example: C =concern or caring... H = hugs, humor...

Then, offer your services and or time to bring joy into someone's life by performing one or more of the kindnesses you listed.

**Prayer:** To be read by senior member of your family or ohana group:

*Dear Father, help us, like shepherds and angels, glorify and praise you for the gift of Jesus'. As we received your gift, enable us to share your joy with others. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.*

## **Fourth Candle of Advent – Love**

Read: John 3:16 and John 4:9-14

*Light* the 1<sup>st</sup> candle and say:  
Jesus is our Hope.

*Light* the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle and say:  
Jesus is our Hope for peace.

*Light* the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle and say:  
This candle represents Joy. Because of Christ, we can have the Joy that is promised in God's Word.

*Light* the 4<sup>th</sup> candle and say:

This candle represents Love. God loved us so much that He sent His son to earth so that all people could be saved. Love is the most powerful emotion in the entire world. Love has the capacity to conquer every other emotion known to mankind. God calls us to be witnesses of His love, extending to others Christ-like forgiveness, mercy and compassion by being humble and dedicated servants.

**Discuss:** How do we share God's love? How did it make you feel when you shared God's love?

### **Sing: "For God So Loved the World"**

For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son  
To die on Calv'ry's tree, from sin to set us free,  
Someday He's coming back, What glory that will be  
Wonderful His love for me.

### **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,  
Yet in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts, the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

**Activity:** Have each one in your family (ohana group) pick a name (written on slips of paper). Then, set up a bell or cluster of sleigh bells in a conspicuous place in your home. Each time you do something nice for that person (whose name you picked, ring the bell(s)). Fill your home with sounds of kindness and love.

Adopt a family for Advent. Take your whole family shopping to select gifts for your chosen family. Then, share a meal together giving your time and gifts.

Pick a Christmas card you received during the week and pray for that person/family.

Read by mother/female of the household (or ohana group): The Art of Giving

“We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart:  
Love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, forgiveness

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the mind:  
Ideas, dreams, purposes, inventions, projects, poetry

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the spirit: Prayer, beauty, aspiration, faith  
We give of ourselves when we give gifts of time: Patience, attention, consideration  
We give of ourselves when we give gifts of words: Encouragement, inspiration, guidance.”

**Prayer:** By youth/teen family member (or ohana group):

*Thank you, Lord for filling me with your love. You made me and gave me hands, feet, a mind, heart and time. Help me to use these gifts to share your gift of love with someone today.  
Amen.*

## Christmas Day

Read: Matthew 1:18 - 2:12

*Light* all 4 candles and say:

Christ has come and He has given us Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

We light these candles because Christ is the source of all life.

Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly."* John 10:10b

If you have a 5th candle (which is usually white), light it and say:

This candle represents Jesus, the Light of our world. We will follow Him and not be in darkness but have the light of Life. Place baby Jesus in your creche if you have one.

**Discuss:** How is Jesus present in your family today? How can we recognize Jesus in our home?

**Sing:** *"The First Noel"*

The first Noel, the angles did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

CHORUS: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. CHORUS

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. CHORUS

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently up on their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. CHORUS

Then let us all with one accord

Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind  
hath bought.            CHORUS

**Activity:** Form a Shalom circle. Stand in a circle, cross your right arm over your left arm and join hands. Sing ***“O Come All Ye Faithful”*** (1st verse)

**Prayer:** Have the head of the household or ohana group say:  
*“May the Christ whose coming we celebrate today give you hope, peace, love and joy. Amen.”*