

CHRISTMAS AT TC



BEHOLD
THE
LAMB

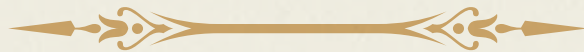


FAMILY ADVENT GUIDE



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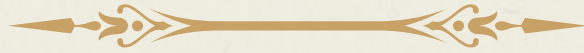


If you've never followed a liturgical calendar, you might be wondering what Advent is. The word advent is defined as, "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." In Christian theology, it's "the coming or second coming of Christ."

The Advent season is special. It's filled with hope and expectation. In this season we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ as we remember His birth. At the same time, we look ahead to His second coming.

The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This year, it begins on Sunday, November 27. In this guide, we encourage you to come together with family or friends each Sunday, or throughout the week, to remember what this season is all about.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



GATHER

We encourage you to gather as a family each Sunday evening (or whenever is convenient for you) during this Advent season. Make the time special and make it a priority.

SING

At the top of each week is a QR code you can scan. This will take you to a song. Feel free to sing along or just listen.

READ

Read through the Scriptures and devotional provided for that week. Allow each family member to share their thoughts or ask questions.

PRAY

End your time together with a prayer. You can read the one provided or make up your own.

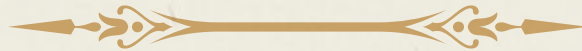
TAKE ACTION

Each week also has an action step for each age group: adults, teens, and kids. You can plan when and how you all will participate in these action steps.

Overall, remember that there are no strict rules when it comes to this Advent Guide. This is a resource to help you gather as a family so you can remember what this season is all about and look ahead with hopeful expectation of what's to come.

WEEK ONE

WHAT IS ADVENT?



MARY'S LULLABY (BLACK HAIRED BOY)

THE PORTER'S GATE

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!

MARK 1:1-3

DEVOTIONAL

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "arrival." More specifically the arrival of Jesus, the Savior. When we know an important person is coming, our life changes. We start to think about how we'll act when they arrive and even begin to live as if they're already present. We take time to prepare for their arrival by cleaning and organizing, improving whatever we can, and having everything ready and waiting for them.

The surprise of Christmas is that Jesus, the One whose arrival we await is actually the One who has prepared for us. He comes so that we may be with Him. All we do is in response to what He has already done to prepare a place for us. Get ready, tidy up, set out your best this Christmas for the Savior who is coming.

PRAYER

Jesus, we await Your arrival. Help me to increase living in anticipation of Your presence. May You transform my life in this season of waiting. Amen.

ACTION STEPS

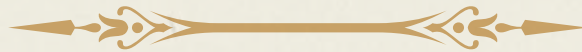
Adults: It's not too late to purchase a gift from our Roll Out Hope wishlist! Check out the Roll Out Hope website for info and provide a gift today (Sunday, November 27).

Teens: Sign up to serve with Roll Out Hope with your family on December 4.

Kids: Ask your parents to sign up for the Roll Out Hope Big Sort on December 4. This is a great way to love families in our community.

WEEK TWO

LORD OF SALVATION



JOY TO THE WORLD
MAVERICK CITY MUSIC

And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has set us free from our sins by His blood, and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

REVELATION 1:5-6

DEVOTIONAL

Often, we look at the Advent season in a one-dimensional fashion: Jesus was born in a manger to save us from our sins. While this is a beautiful and important truth, Jesus as the Lord of Salvation is much broader than that. Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection did redeem us to God, rescuing us from the eternal power of sin, death, and evil. The Lord of Salvation also redeemed us into the family of God, welcoming us into His kingdom and into His priesthood.

In this, we are invited to live from the truth that we are priests in the Kingdom of God! We rejoice in the Advent season because the Lord of Salvation is here, saving us from our sins and inviting us to join Him on His mission to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. We are free people because of His redeeming blood!

PRAYER

Jesus, help us see You as the Lord of Salvation and to see ourselves as part of Your free people. Help us to grasp the sacrifice You made in Your birth, death, and resurrection. We pray that the truth of who You are and what You have done changes the way we live today, as we seek to know and love You more. Amen.

ACTION STEPS

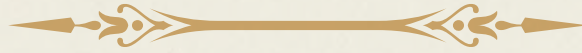
Adults: Give generously as we provide hope to families during the advent season.

Teens: Talk to your parents about ways that you can join them in giving generously to our Roll Out Hope community project. Maybe this looks like giving a portion of your allowance or earning money around the house to give generously.

Kids: Write a prayer of hope for the Roll Out Hope families we get to serve this Christmas. You can also draw a picture and get a family member help you with the writing. Share it with your family and read it throughout the week.

WEEK THREE

L O R D O F H I S T O R Y



THE BEST IS YET TO COME
MACK BROCK FT. TC MUSIC

After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

R E V E L A T I O N 7 : 9 - 1 2

DEVOTIONAL

Throughout history, God's people have faced many trials. But no matter what challenge we face, we can overcome because of Jesus. The Bible tells us that victory already belongs to the Lamb, Jesus. He is already sitting on the throne. One day there will be a vast multitude of people from all over the world, people of every skin color and culture and language, who will worship Jesus around the throne.

We can face the challenges of today knowing that no matter the outcome on this side of heaven, a day is coming when there will be no more sadness, no more tears, no more suffering. As the Apostle Paul says in his second letter to the Corinthians,

"For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

The suffering we experience today is fleeting. The glory we will experience in the presence of Jesus is forever.

PRAYER

Jesus, You know all the pain we feel in our everyday lives. You are present with us in those moments through Your Spirit. When we feel like we can't handle the suffering of this world, help us to trust in You. Remind us of the great eternal tomorrow yet to come where we will praise You with our brothers and sisters of every tribe, tongue, and nation. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ACTION STEPS

Adults: Spend 5 minutes each morning with a time of gratitude. Thank God for the trials He has brought you through and trust Him to continue to guide you through the trials to come.

Teens: Ask your parent, guardian, or another trusted adult in your life to share how God has brought them through trials in their life.

Kids: Draw a picture based off Revelation 7:9-12. Post it on your refrigerator.

WEEK FOUR

LORD OF WORSHIP



HALLELUJAH - LIVE

CHRIST TOMLIN WITH BLESSING OFFOR

And they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God by Your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands. They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

REVELATION 5:9-12

DEVOTIONAL

Sight and sound help to tell the story of Revelation. We are invited with the Apostle John to see and hear what unfolds. In chapter 5, there is a problem because no one can be found who is worthy. That is, nothing is worth worshipping. Then, John is told to look because the Lion of Judah is worthy. When John turns, instead of a lion, a symbol of strength, he sees a slain lamb. The Christmas story is a story of strength made weak to ransom people from every nation.

What John sees and hears next is a crowd too large to count beginning to worship loudly, telling Jesus all He is worthy to receive. He deserves everything. And this is the formative power of worship. As we begin to tell Jesus all that is true about Him, we begin to be shaped by our relationship to Him. We are worshippers, looking to and listening to Jesus. Where do you see Jesus? What is Jesus saying to you?

PRAYER

Jesus, we want to see You and hear You. Help us to be attentive to your presence. So often we look for You in lion-like ways. Help us to also see and worship You as the Lamb. May we be shaped by your presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit's power to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

ACTION STEPS

Adults: As you are preparing gifts to give others, take time to look and listen for God's presence in their lives. Pray for them and take a moment to thank God for them.

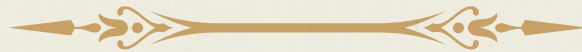
Teens: Take 15 technology-free minutes to use your eyes and ears in a crowd of people. Ask God to help you see and hear His love for them.

Kids: Make an impromptu musical and make a joyful noise for Jesus.

WEEK FIVE

CHRISTMAS DAY

LORD OF ETERNITY



**COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS
KINGS KALEIDOSCOPE**

Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying, Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, reigns! Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself.

REVELATION 19:6-7

DEVOTIONAL

The good news of the Advent season is that the truth of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection invites us into an eternity in the family of God. It's hard to imagine, but one day, sin and evil will be no more, and we will experience perfect communion with God, just as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. The sadness of today will be untrue!

This is a beautiful hope, but it might feel shallow when we are still experiencing brokenness today. Maybe someone in your family is sick or brokenhearted or going through financial troubles. Maybe a conflict in your life just can't seem to be replaced with peace or resolution. The Lord of Eternity offers us the hope and truth of His power and glory now, even when our circumstances are not good. He invites us to be His bride and hope in what He promises to do for His people. He reigns over everything – and that will be true forever! As we celebrate His birth today, remember that He is the Lord of Eternity and is worthy to be praised. He is making all things new.

PRAYER

Jesus, You are the Lord of Eternity. Everything pales in comparison to You and Your glory and power. You are making all things new. Help us to live in communion and relationship with You now and hold onto the hope that one day, sin, death, and evil will have no place in the new heavens and new earth. In Your name we pray. Amen.

ACTION STEPS

Adults: Invite a friend or neighbor to join you for Christmas dinner or another favorite tradition.

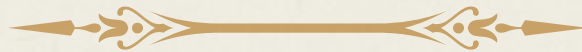
Teens: Journal about what you've learned about God over this Advent season.

Kids: Read the Christmas story to your family. (Luke 2:1-20) Some great Bible recommendations for kids include the Jesus Storybook Bible and the Kids Action Bible. Share your takeaways with your family and invite them to share too.



ABOUT

TRANSFORMATION CHURCH



Transformation Church is a multiethnic, multigenerational, mission-shaped community that loves God completely (upward), ourselves correctly (inward), and our neighbors compassionately (outward).

For more resources, service times, and location check out our website: transformationchurch.tc

