



Transformation Church



LOVE
GIVES

Advent Guide
2024



Introduction:

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 Jesus Christ as we remember His birth. At the same time, we look ahead to His second Advent, or His second coming.

The word "advent" is defined as "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." For Christ-followers, it's the arrival of Jesus Christ. The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This year, it begins on Sunday, December 1. 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's section 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:

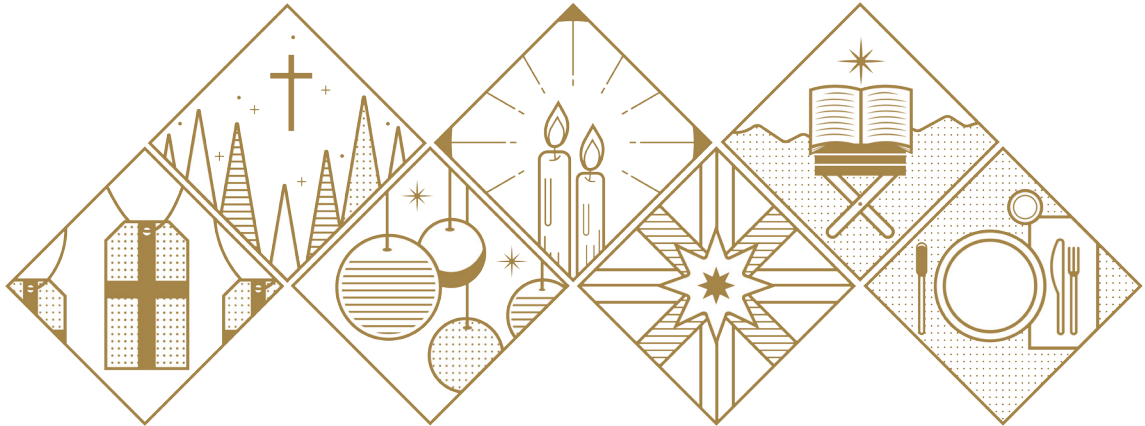
End your time together with a prayer. You can read the one provided or make up your own.

Take Action:

Each week also has an action step. You can plan when and how you 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.

roll out hope



During the holiday season, we get to provide hope and affirm God-given dignity to families through Roll Out Hope. This year, we are equipping parents and guardians with everything they need for their own Christmas experience including gifts, clothing, and food for their families. What's special about Roll Out Hope is that each gift is individualized, so that every child feels valued and loved. We also distribute the gifts directly to the parents and guardians so that they get the opportunity to wrap and prepare the gifts themselves and experience the gift of giving to their families. Each family receives everything they need to wrap their gifts and prepare a Christmas meal. This way each family can create their own Christmas celebration. You can participate in Roll Out Hope by giving financially until December 15.



For more information, head to transformationchurch.tc/rollouthope



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us grace

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Week

1

Scripture Reading:

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. – 1 John 1:1-3 CSB

My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one. He Himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world. – 1 John 2:1-2 CSB

Devotional:

The uncomfortable truth Christ-followers must learn to wrestle with is that, although we are new creations in Christ, we must undergo a process known as sanctification. This means that although we no longer carry the penalty of sin, we are still being freed from the power of sin. This is the reality we live with; we are learning and being conformed into the image of Jesus day by day. There will be times when we struggle to make the right choice or to align our actions with our beliefs. There will be times when we make mistakes. There will be times when we stumble or fall.

But here is the good news: Grace not only saves us; it also sanctifies us. Grace means there is never a moment when we can't turn to God. He is always looking at us with love and compassion. He is always holding His arms open wide, ready to embrace us. We may not understand this grace, but we don't have to. We can simply believe that it is true and allow God to love us just as we are, knowing that He will pour out His grace on us. When we have a true understanding of grace, we no longer beat ourselves up or beat up the people around us. In response to God's grace, we become gracious as well, and little by little the Holy Spirit will mold us to become more like Jesus. Jesus has done the work and advocates on our behalf; let's walk in that grace-gift.

Song:



Son of Suffering



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us friendship

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Week

2

Scripture Reading:

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. – 1 John 1:1-3 CSB

So God created human beings in His own image.

In the image of God He created them;

male and female He created them. – Genesis 1:27 NLT

Devotional:

Did you know that all people are made in God's image? This is very special! One of the reasons this is special is because it means that we were created for community. Just as God has always existed in a loving community unto Himself within the Trinity (Father, Son, and Spirit), we were also created to live in community.

It's not a surprise that we live in a divided world. The division and brokenness we experience on earth happened when sin entered the world in Genesis 3. But when God sent His Son, Jesus, down to earth to live the perfect life we couldn't live, die the death He didn't deserve, and rise again on the third day, He had us in mind. When we say yes to Jesus, we receive grace, mercy, and forgiveness. We also receive new life in Christ, allowing us to have a restored relationship with God and a restored relationship with others. The blood of Jesus makes us right with God (Upward), ourselves (Inward), and our neighbors (Outward). Sin meant to divide, but Jesus came to give us fellowship (friendship or partnership) with God, ourselves, and God's multiethnic, multigenerational family. Fellowship with God and others is a gift that we can't just keep to ourselves; it's meant to be shared. Similar to the experience we have when we eat at a good restaurant and want to share it with others, we are called to do the same thing as we share about Jesus. As we celebrate King Jesus, the One who gives us friendship, may we be people who don't keep this good news to ourselves but share it freely with those in our lives through the way we live and love.

Song:



What a Friend



LOVE GIVES

us life

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Week

3

Scripture Reading:

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. – 1 John 1:1-3 CSB

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. – 1 John 5:11-13 CSB

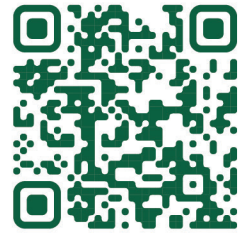
Devotional:

The moment you say yes to Jesus you are gifted eternal life. This is not a far-off reality; this is a here-and-now reality. Eternal life starts now. So knowing that we have new life in Jesus, how does this change our everyday life? One way is that the Holy Spirit lives in us and is able to offer guidance, comfort, and direction. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in us. This power gives us the ability to go out and share about the Good News of Jesus with those around us. We live on mission with Jesus to share God's love, grace, and mercy with a world that desperately needs it. We don't have to sit on the sidelines. We are active participants in the Gospel mission, no matter our age, background, ethnicity, or status.

Faith is more than believing; faith is an action. And thanks to the new life that is ours in Jesus, we are able to respond to God's call to action so that others may experience new and eternal life as well.

This Christmas season, pray for an opportunity to share about God's gift of eternal life with someone who hasn't yet experienced it. Then, be on the lookout for ways you can actively love others around you. Remember, the Holy Spirit will guide and empower you.

Song:



Who Else



Scripture Reading:

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. – 1 John 1:1-3 CSB

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
– 1 Peter 1:8-9 CSB

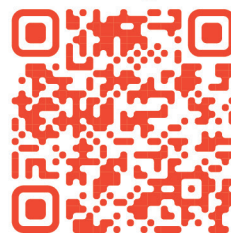
Devotional:

When you think about the Christmas season, what brings you joy? Maybe it's the twinkle of Christmas lights, a cup of hot chocolate with mini marshmallows, or your favorite Christmas movie. While these things can bring us joy, there is an even greater joy we can experience that surpasses our ideal day.

When God sent His Son Jesus into the world to save us from sin, death, and evil, He knew that in Jesus we would find ultimate joy. When we say yes to Jesus, we reach the goal of our faith, as we are saved, redeemed, and reconciled back to God. That means that our relationship with God is repaired. Even though we do not see God, we believe in Him and can rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy because we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. This joy described in 1 Peter above is a present reality, one we can live in today.

This means that, no matter what we face, our joy is unshakable because it's not placed in situations or people that change, but in Jesus, the One who never changes. As we experience fun festivities, as well as the hard and difficult moments this season can bring, let's rejoice in the inexpressible joy we receive in Jesus and remember that joy isn't based on our circumstances; it's based on our faith in Jesus Christ.

Song:



Joy



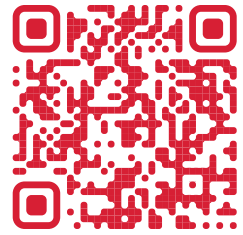
Scripture Reading:

I am writing to you who are God's children
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.
I am writing to you who are mature in the faith
because you know Christ, who existed from the
beginning.
I am writing to you who are young in the faith
because you have won your battle with the evil one.
I have written to you who are God's children
because you know the Father.
I have written to you who are mature in the faith
because you know Christ, who existed from the
beginning.
I have written to you who are young in the faith
because you are strong.
God's word lives in your hearts,
and you have won your battle with the evil one.
- 1 John 2:12-14 NLT

Devotional:

The Good News of Jesus is for everyone! No matter where you come from, how old you are, or what you've been through, you have a place in God's family. That's why our vision is to be a multiethnic, multigenerational, mission-shaped community that loves God completely, ourselves correctly, and our neighbors compassionately. Jesus has made a way to reconcile us to God and to one another. Now, through the Spirit's enabling power, we get to live from a place of unity. Jesus is our peace, our joy, and our strength. Remember to celebrate and worship Jesus on this day when we look back and remember His humble entrance into the world.

Song:



Jesus Lamb of God

Prayer:

Jesus, today we celebrate Your birth! We are grateful that You humbly came to this earth so that You could reconcile us to God and to one another. May we gaze on Your beauty today and every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Action Step:

Take turns sharing one reason that you are grateful for the birth of Jesus. Celebrate all the beautiful gifts Jesus gives us!

Join us for our new series, *Overcome*, in 2025! Who can you invite?

Notes:





About Us

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

Scan

for more resources, service times, and locations or check out our website:
transformationchurch.tc





GRACE

friendship

LIFE

joy

JESUS





 **TRANSFORMATION**
CHURCH

