

A FAMILY  
ADVENT  
CALENDAR





Advent is a season of expectation—we're eagerly waiting for Jesus' birth! Sometimes people use candles to celebrate Advent. They light a new candle each week as they look forward to the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World!



These simple, super-doable Advent activities will brighten your family's Christmas celebration and help you create merry, bright, and meaningful moments together. And they just so happen to review Bible content discovered at Stellar VBS and Stellar Christmas! Whether you are hearing these truths for the first time or have been practicing them since last summer, these new ideas will help your family shine Jesus' light together this Christmas.

Each week's theme features two repeated Bible verses to read and explore together. If you have some candles handy, light a candle before reading the verses together each week.



# FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

WHEN LIFE FEELS DARK... SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!

01



**Light a candle. Read Isaiah 9:2, 6.**

Tell about a time you walked in the dark. How did you feel? How can Jesus help you when you feel that way?

02



Decorate something in your house with lights! It could be a Christmas tree, a banister, or even a refrigerator! Thank Jesus for his light that brightens dark times.

03



**Light a candle. Read Isaiah 9:2, 6.**

What name for Jesus in these verses do you like best? Tell why.

04



Every time you turn on a light switch, say, "Shine Jesus' light!"

05



**Light a candle. Read John 8:12.**

Play a game of "follow the leader." Turn off the lights and give the leader a flashlight. How is following the leader in the game like following Jesus as a family?

06



Eat supper in the dark! Light candles or turn on a flashlight to give you the light you need to see. Talk about how Jesus has brought light to dark times your family has gone through. And thank Jesus for being the light of your family.

07



**Light a candle. Read John 8:12.**

Where and when have you seen Jesus' light in your world this week?

**"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.... For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:2, 6**

**"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.' " John 8:12**



# SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

WHEN PEOPLE DON'T GET ALONG...SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!

01



**Light two candles. Read Romans 12:16.**

When people live in harmony, their cool differences come together to make something beautiful. What's something cool about each member of your family?

02



Harmony happens when different musical notes are played or sung together! Listen to Christmas music together. Do you hear any harmonies?

03



**Light two candles. Read Romans 12:16.**

Why is it important to keep learning new things rather than insisting you know it all? What have you learned from members of your family?

04



Take turns sharing interesting things you know with your family. It'll be fun to learn from each other!

05



**Light two candles. Read Luke 1:78-79.**

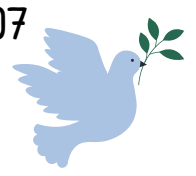
Zechariah said these words. He was married to Jesus' mom's cousin, Elizabeth! So, he was related to Jesus! Think of one relative in your family and send that person an encouraging message to brighten their day.

06



When arguments happen in your family today, take a deep breath, and ask Jesus to shine his light in your hearts to help you get along.

07



**Light two candles. Read Luke 1:78-79.**

Tell about a time you needed Jesus' peace. How did Jesus help you during that time?

**“Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!” Romans 12:16**

**“Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.” Luke 1:78-79**



# THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

WHEN GOOD THINGS HAPPEN... SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!

01



**Light three candles.**  
**Read Luke 1:46-47.**

God chose Mary to be Jesus' mom, and Mary was happy about that. What's something you're happy about today? Praise God for those happy things.

02



What good things are happening this week? Parties? Concerts? Christmas movies? Think about ways to shine Jesus' light as you enjoy those good things.

03



**Light three candles.**  
**Read Luke 1:46-47.**

Have a praise party! Move and groove together as you listen to favorite Christmas songs about Jesus!

04



Open a Christmas present early! Enjoy that good gift together as a family.

05



**Light three candles.**  
**Read Psalm 100:1-2.**

When we have joy, our hearts feel happy and grateful. Take turns saying one thing you are grateful for today.

06



Jump for joy! Jump up and down with your family. How many different ways can you safely jump? Have a good time jumping and laughing together.

07



**Light three candles.**  
**Read Psalm 100:1-2.**

Sing a prayer before supper. It could be a prayer song you've heard before, or one you make up!

**"Mary responded, 'Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!' "**  
**Luke 1:46-47**

**"Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy." Psalm 100:1-2**



# FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

WHEN PEOPLE NEED HELP...SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!

01



**Light four candles. Read Matthew 2:9-11.**

These verses tell about the Magi's visit with Jesus! Together as a family, take some time to pray and visit with Jesus. Tell him about your day and ask for his help with things you're facing this week.

02



Look for ways to help each other today! You could help make beds, fold laundry, get a snack, or read a book! When you do, you're shining Jesus' light!

03



**Light four candles. Read Matthew 2:9-11.**

Seeing the star brought the Magi great joy. Tell your family about something that brings you joy!

04



Who can you help in your community this week? Could you deliver Christmas treats to cheer someone's day? Could you clean up trash at a park? Could you decorate someone's house for them? Look for ways to shine Jesus' light as you help others.

05



**Light four candles. Read Matthew 5:16.**

What good deeds have people done for your family? Take time to remember kind things people have done, then thank God for those people.

06



Help each other make Christmas cookies this weekend!

07



**Light four candles. Read Matthew 5:16.**

When someone does something nice for you today, say, "Thanks for shining Jesus' light!"

**"And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with great joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him." Matthew 2:9-11**

**"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:16**