



ADVENT

Guide



MOSAIC

Introduction

In a season often marked by noise, hurry, and distraction, Advent invites us to slow down, to listen, and to make room to receive what matters most. This guide is built around that invitation. Each week, you'll engage a spiritual practice that helps reorient your heart toward Christ. Our hope is that these practices create space for meaningful connection with Jesus not just on Christmas Day, but throughout the entire season.

What Is Advent?

The word “Advent” means “arrival,” and in this season we practice four weeks of hope. We remember that God is faithful to fulfill what he promises, and we slow down to dwell on that truth in a world that rarely waits for anything. We pause from the rush and turn our attention to both the first coming of Christ (when he was born in Bethlehem), and his promised return.

What to Expect

This guide offers one spiritual practice each week that is meant to be simple and practical—most take about 10 to 20 minutes. While these practices are written for individuals, we encourage you to do them with others if possible, whether with your family, a few friends, roommates, or someone you invite into the experience.

Overview of the Four Spiritual Practices

Each week highlights a different way to respond to Jesus during Advent. These spiritual disciplines are rooted in Scripture and crafted to fit real life.

- **Week 1: Scripture (Promise)** – Receive and repeat God’s promise through Isaiah 9:6.
- **Week 2: Simplicity (Make Room)** – Subtract something and create space for what matters most.
- **Week 3: Generosity (Give First)** – Choose how you’ll give before the season decides for you.
- **Week 4: Prayer in Waiting (Light and Longing)** – Bring your deepest longings to God as an act of hope.



PROMISE

WEEK 1: SCRIPTURE

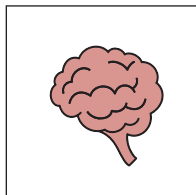
Christians have practiced Advent for centuries as a season of waiting and hope. The word Advent means “arrival.” Across four Sundays, Christians remember Israel’s wait for the Messiah (his first arrival) and our anticipation of Christ’s return (his second arrival) with hope. The church has long enriched this season with shared practices that turn waiting into embodied worship, and we will continue that pattern together each week. Many households also light an Advent wreath with candles often named Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. These are not rules to keep but tools that help us worship well.

Advent begins with promise. Isaiah spoke to Judah under Assyrian threat while the north sat in deep darkness. God answered with a promise of a child who would carry his rule and bring real peace. In the ancient world, rulers took throne names that described their reign, and we are given four such names for the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6. Memorizing this verse is worship that writes God’s promise on our hearts and steadies us.

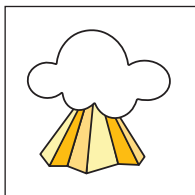
*And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

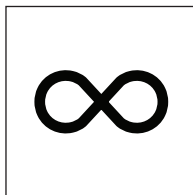
Let the four throne names teach you who Jesus is.



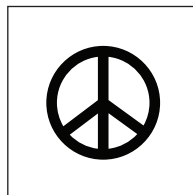
Wonderful Counselor



Mighty God



Everlasting Father



Prince of Peace

- **Wonderful Counselor** speaks of supernatural wisdom that truly guides.
- **Mighty God** declares his divine strength for our weakness.
- **Everlasting Father** means “Father forever,” a royal title describing the Messiah’s unending, father-like care for his people.
- **Prince of Peace** promises shalom, a right relationship with God that brings wholeness to every part of life.

Set Up the Practice:

Memorizing Scripture is a spiritual practice that keeps God's words near so they become our prayers and our responses. Use the steps below to learn Isaiah 9:6 this week.

1. Read Isaiah 9:2–7 aloud. Write down or draw one word, phrase, or idea that stands out.
2. Memorize Isaiah 9:6: “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.” Use the images on the next page to help you memorize the verse. Try cutting them out and putting them in the correct order.
3. Post the verse or images where you will see them frequently this week (e.g., fridge, mirror, phone lock screen).
4. Each evening, recite Isaiah 9:6 and pray one sentence: “Lord Jesus, make this promise my hope.”
5. Tell a friend or family member the verse you have memorized!

Prayer Prompt:

“Jesus, you are our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Everlasting Father, our Prince of Peace; help me trust your promise and wait with hope.”

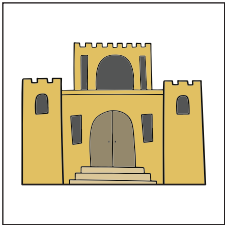
Dwell:

How did you engage the spiritual practice this week and what would you like to remember?

Activity:



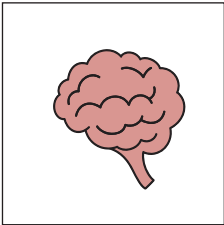
“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.



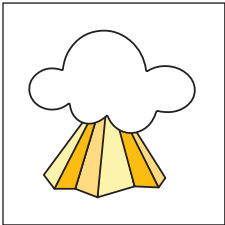
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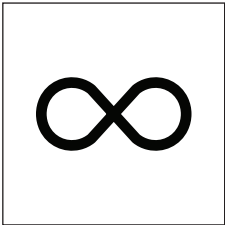
And he will be called:



Wonderful Counselor,



Mighty God,



Everlasting Father,

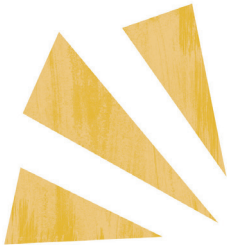


Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah
9:6

J M A V P U M Y Q G X E O Y X A K T R P Z O X I
I P Y O E C M O P L N C L K E O X S O F C E I Y
H G V G D V Y F H S Y F Y F Z M C Y P R I N C E
S I S H O N E U D G B O Q L D H X R M P P C D K
Q A R I P W N R V R O L E S N U O C D L Q E A G
W T D Q V Y C E L F G O X G J W Q D Q E O A M X
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E F C J A M F W T N J U I O Q D T H K C H I Q W
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Y B Q L E U R I C J A O A H G S P P A A W W R W
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W Z X N K M N E R P D L G T H M K Q T Z F D E B
E H W X G R D M G E B Y Q T M I R Q A V E Y C L
S G I X E X Z O R V O M E X Y A L L I J P A S U
F M Q V M O G S G W E F P V I E S D M S U M T A
A S O X M Z K B Z X C F J K P G I G G E A U V O
N G N W L W S V C P O E K H N X N U Y A T I A P
S Z M H D E N A H G Z D E G N H A M P F G W A Y
D K W O Y F H A U W P E X Y U L T G D N F C M H

Christmas
God
Jesus
Advent
Isaiah
Peace
Prince
Father
Everlasting
Counselor
Wonderful
Shoulders
Government
Son
Child





**MAKE
ROOM**

WEEK 2: SIMPLICITY

Advent is a season of waiting that trains our attention toward Christ. Each week, we take up a spiritual practice that helps us worship with intention. This week is Simplicity. In Luke 10:38–42, Jesus visits a home in Bethany. Mary sits at his feet, the posture of a disciple, while Martha is pulled in many directions by dinner preparations. Jesus does not dismiss service. He redirects desire. He says Mary has discovered the one thing worth being concerned about: the Lord himself—language that echoes the Psalms where the Lord himself is our inheritance (Psalm 16:5).

Simplicity means that we order our lives so we can give undivided attention to Jesus. December fills quickly. If we do not plan our worship, the season will plan it for us. A small subtraction paired with a small addition makes real space: less hurry, more presence; less noise, more Scripture and love of neighbor. The aim is not doing nothing, but doing “the one thing worth being concerned about.” Simplicity isn’t saying no to joy; it’s saying no to hurry so you can say yes to Jesus.

Set Up the Practice:

Simplicity removes a lesser demand so you can attend to what matters most. Use the steps below to choose one subtraction and one addition for this week.

1. **Name reality:** What are you focusing on? Put your December calendar on the table. Circle your most crowded days. If all your days feel the same, look at what you do during the day! Use the weekly calendar on the other page to draw out your typical week. What do you spend most of your time doing? Is that bringing you closer to the Lord and centering your heart on him?
2. **Subtract:** Cross out one optional commitment this week, or remove one nightly screen habit that crowds your evenings (for example, scrolling on social media). If you are looking at your days, is there something you do regularly that is taking up your time or preventing you from engaging in the Scriptures? Watching television, playing video games, scrolling through TikTok, being with friends, taking naps, or not setting alarms are great examples of things we could change that would give us more room to worship this season.
3. **Add:** Choose one Advent moment to guard this week. For example, decide to read a short Scripture reading, practice the memory verse from last week, spend time listening to worship songs about Jesus’ birth, or serve together as a family or community. Write your subtraction and addition decisions on the calendar and put it on the fridge, or write out a new calendar where you reorient your time around focusing more on Jesus!

Prayer Prompt:

“Father, teach me to choose the one thing worth being concerned about. Help me make room for your Son this Christmas season.”

Dwell:

How did you engage the spiritual practice this week and what would you like to remember?

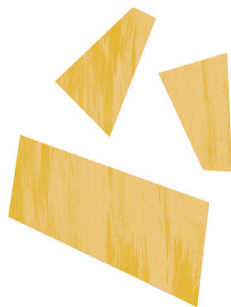
Activity:

Use the key below to assign a color to each activity you may spend time doing. Color in the schedule blocks to see how you're spending your time.

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7 AM							
8 AM							
9 AM							
10 AM							
11 AM							
12 PM							
1 PM							
2 PM							
3 PM							
4 PM							
5 PM							
6 PM							
7 PM							
8 PM							
9 PM							
10 PM							

KEY:

- ☐ Work
- ☐ Mosaic Inspire
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Church
- ☐ Watching TV
- ☐ Playing video games
- ☐ Sleeping
- ☐ Reading
- ☐ Reading your Bible
- ☐ Praying
- ☐ Listening to worship music
- ☐ Resting
- ☐ Looking at social media

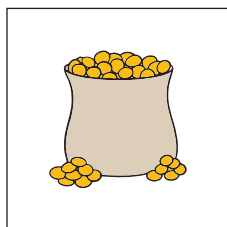




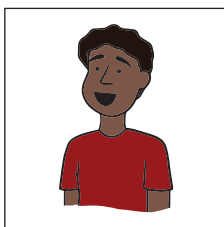
**GIVE
FIRST**

WEEK 3: GENEROSITY

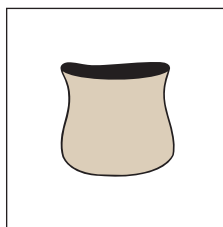
Advent reminds us that the story of Christmas is a story of radical generosity. In 2 Corinthians 8:9, Paul points to the incarnation as both the pattern and the power behind Christian giving: “Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.” Christ gave himself—not out of obligation, but out of love. “Rich” speaks of his eternal glory; “poor” points to the humility of his birth. His arrival in a manger is both a gift and an invitation.



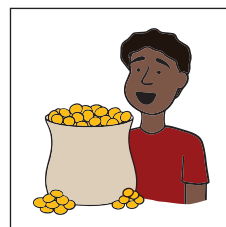
“Though he was
rich,



yet for
your sakes



he became
poor



so that by his
poverty he could
make you rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:9

Advent is also a season of reversal: light entering darkness, the King coming low, and true wealth given to the spiritually bankrupt. This kind of generosity doesn’t start with extra resources—it starts with seeing Jesus. Paul celebrates believers who were “very poor,” yet overflowed in joyful giving because they had “first given themselves to the Lord” (2 Corinthians 8:2, 5). Giving, then, becomes worship: free, joyful, intentional, and shaped by grace. Not guilt. Not pressure. Simply the fruit of looking at Jesus.

This Advent, resist the current of consumerism by reallocating money you might normally spend on yourself and offering it instead for the good of others and the work of God. Let this deliberate reversal shape you more than cultural consumerism does.

wGenerosity is a spiritual practice that trains our hearts to mirror Christ's self-giving. Use the steps below to take action this week.

1. **Consider** at least one area to focus on: **Church** (bless someone at your campus), **Neighbor** (a local person or ministry you can bless), or **Global** (a missionary or partner).
2. **Decide** on the gift by choosing a specific dollar amount and a specific need. Write it down. If you are not in a financial position to give money, think of ways you could serve a person's specific need. Maybe they need dinner, a person to help them around the house, prayer, etc.
3. **Give** or deliver the gift this week, and pray by name for the person or ministry.

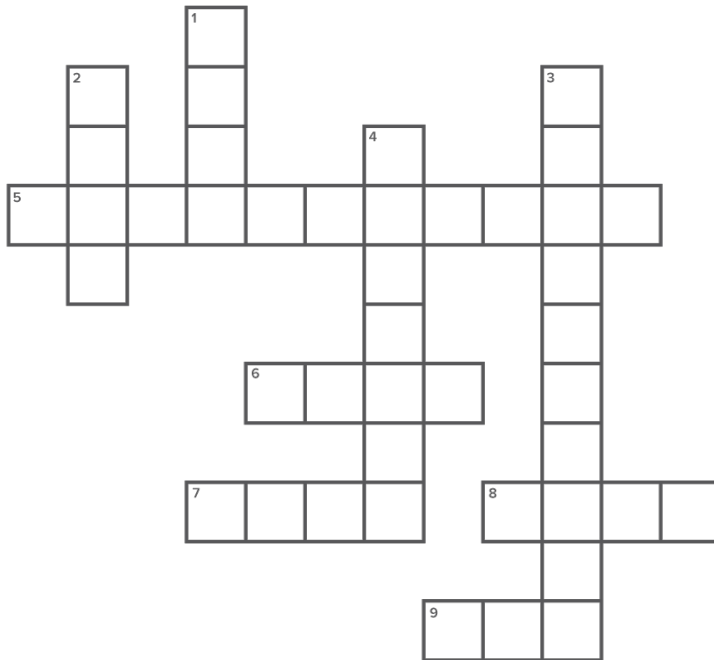
Prayer Prompt:

"Jesus, you became poor so that we might become rich in you. Make me a cheerful giver."

Dwell:

How did you engage the spiritual practice this week and what would you like to remember?

Activity:

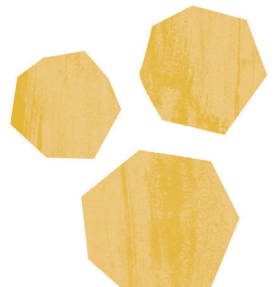


DOWN

1. Jesus became ____ for our sake (v. 9)
2. Jesus' self-giving shows his great ____ for us
3. Paul commended the Macedonians for their rich ____ (v. 2)
4. The believers in Macedonia gave even in their ____ (v. 2)

ACROSS

5. The Macedonians' generosity flowed from ____ joy (v. 2)
6. Giving should begin by offering oneself to the ____ (v. 5)
7. God calls us to give not out of ____, but willingly
8. Christ was ____ but became poor (v. 9)
9. They gave not reluctantly but with ____ (v. 2)





**LIGHT &
LONGING**

WEEK 4: PRAYER IN WAITING

Advent culminates by turning waiting into prayer. Psalm 130 is a pilgrim's cry of longing, yet the psalmist waits with Scripture in hand and with hope:

“From the depths of despair, O LORD, I call for your help. Hear my cry, O Lord. Pay attention to my prayer. LORD, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O LORD, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you. I am counting on the LORD; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word. I long for the LORD more than watchmen long for the dawn, yes, more than watchmen long for the dawn. O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows. He himself will redeem Israel from every kind of sin.”

This psalm anchors our hope not in our mood, but in God's character of forgiveness and unfailing love. Verse 6 gives us the image of watchmen waiting for morning—and it is deliberate. They cannot make the sun rise, but they keep watch because dawn is certain, just like the Lord. A candle is another simple sign of that certainty, because light promises, “Night isn't final.”

Prayer in waiting means we bring real longings, desires, hardships, hopes, dreams, and frustrations to God—such as the need for healing, reconciliation, salvation, or endurance. “Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20) is one of the Church's oldest prayers. Early believers summed it up in a single word: Maranatha—“Our Lord, come.” We join the early Church each time we light a candle, name our longings, and wait with hope. This small rhythm can carry you through the week and teach your heart to keep watch beyond it, focusing on the hope in Jesus Christ.

Set Up the Practice:

Three evenings this week, gather for a short candle liturgy that anchors your waiting in Scripture and prayer—creating a space to listen and hand over what you cannot control.

1. **Light a candle.** Read Psalm 130 aloud. Pause for one minute of shared silence.
2. **Name one longing** (healing, reconciliation, salvation, endurance, etc.). Pray one sentence for each request.
3. **Close with:** your hope by closing with: “Come, Lord Jesus. My hope is in you.” Extinguish the candle. *No candle handy? Use a small lamp or phone light.*

Prayer Prompt:

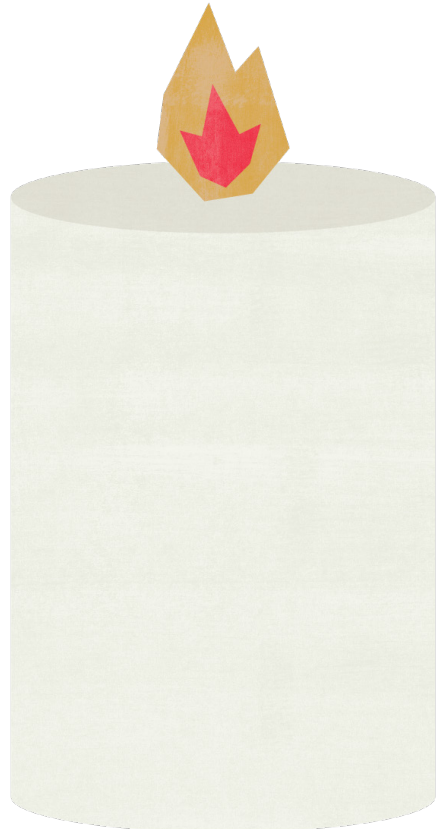
“Lord, I wait for you. Hear my cry and teach me to hope in your Word. Amen.”

Dwell:

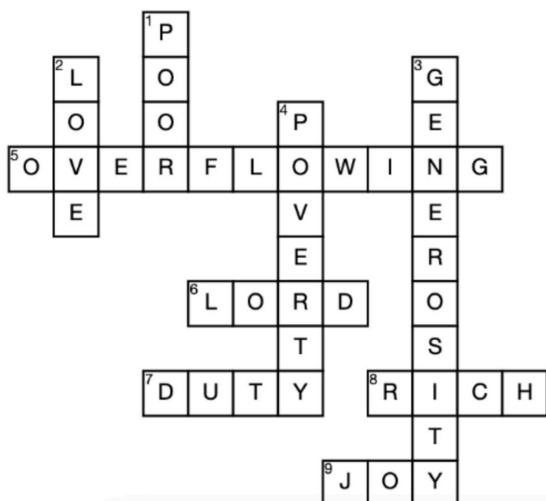
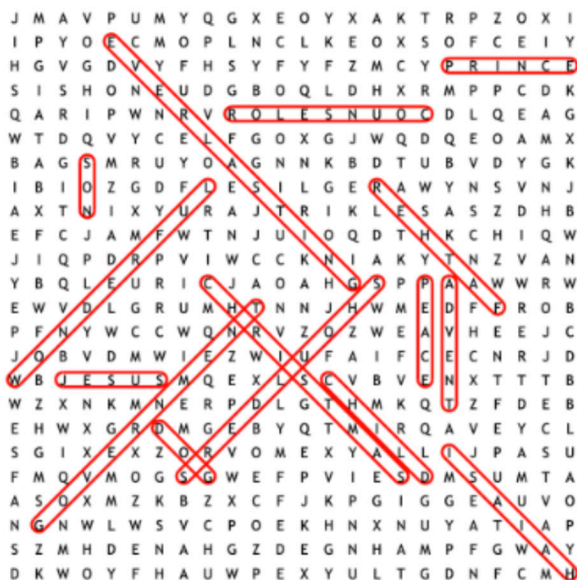
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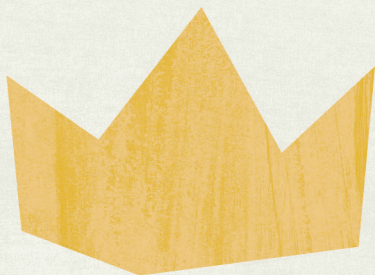
Activity:

List or draw out your longings, desires, and dreams in the blank space. On the candle, write or draw truths from Scripture that remind us our hope is in the Lord and in his promises to us.



Answer Key:





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 9:6



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