



Merry Christmas

THE CREEK STAFF
2025

We hope this Christmas Box brings a little extra sparkle and joy to your home this season. Every item inside was thoughtfully chosen with you in mind—to help you slow down, celebrate, and remember the true reason for Advent.

Our prayer is that as you open each piece, you'll feel more connected—to Jesus, to your family, and to the hope and love He brings into our lives.

We'd love to see how you're celebrating! Share your special moments by tagging @thecreekindy on Instagram or Facebook so we can rejoice with you. From our family to yours, we wish you a Christmas filled with wonder, warmth, and joy.

Merry Christmas!

With cheer and love,
The Creek



We want to invite you on a journey with us this December, a **Journey to Jesus** to wonder and discover who He is. God's Word tells us what Jesus was like. For example, the book of Isaiah promised even before Jesus arrived that he would be a faithful servant, the chosen one; and that God would put his spirit on him, and that he would bring justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-3). That passage in Isaiah is not the only place that tells us about who Jesus is and what he was like.

Each day this month on your journey of wonder, not only will you read passages that highlight different parts of Jesus' character and his unique qualities, but you can also move Jesus along the path of your journey. Use the star magnet to hang your map on your fridge and move your Jesus magnet along His path to the manger! We encourage you to talk with your family about what you learned about Jesus from each passage. (If you need a little help along the way, we have provided some guidance down below.) By the time Christmas day gets here, you will know so much about Jesus and can delight in Him for who He is!

Best wishes on your journey!

December 1	Christ, The Word — John 1:1–5
December 2	Christ, The Light of the World — John 8:12
December 3	Christ, The Radiance of God's Glory — Hebrews 1:2–3
December 4	Christ, The Faithful Son — Hebrews 3:6
December 5	Christ, Fully Human — Hebrews 2:17–18
December 6	Christ, The First and the Last, the Living One — Revelation 1:12–18
December 7	Christ, The Prince of Peace — Isaiah 9:6–7
December 8	Christ, The Servant — John 13:3–5
December 9	Christ, Gentle and Humble in Heart — Matthew 11:28–30
December 10	Christ, The Good Shepherd — John 10:11
December 11	Christ, The Gate for the Sheep — John 10:7
December 12	Christ, The Image of the Invisible God — Colossians 1:15–20
December 13	Christ, With Us to the Very End of the Age — Matthew 28:17–20
December 14	Christ, Friend of Sinners — Mark 2:15–17
December 15	Christ, Obedient to Death — Philippians 2:5–11
December 16	Christ, The Passover Lamb — 1 Peter 1:15
December 17	Christ, The Resurrection and the Life — John 11:25
December 18	Christ, The Way, the Truth, and the Life — John 14:6
December 19	Christ, The Vine — John 15:1
December 20	Christ, The Bread of Life — John 6:35
December 21	Christ, Our Friend — John 15:12–14
December 22	Christ, The Great High Priest — Hebrews 4:14–16
December 23	Christ, Savior of Sinners — 1 Timothy 1:15
December 24	Christ, Messiah, Son of the Living God — Matthew 16:13–16
December 25	Christ, Immanuel — God With Us — Matthew 1:22–23

Advent Devotionals

An Invitation to *Advent*

December abounds with opportunities to busy and distract us. The celebration of Advent is an invitation to slow down, to notice, to ponder, to linger.

The word “advent” simply means “arrival.” We’ve created this guide as a chance for your family to set aside time each Sunday of Advent to remember the longing for the arrival of a Messiah felt by people long ago, and to recognize our own longing for the restoration and renewal of our world, our relationships, and our hearts.

This guide is designed for ages middle school through adult; feel free to use it in the way that best suits the needs of those in your home.

Christians have observed Advent for over 1500 years and traditionally have marked the weeks before Christmas with prayer, Scripture, and candle lighting. Each Sunday of Advent emphasizes a different theme—hope, peace, joy, and love.

The following guide contains an experience for each of the four Sundays of Advent as well as Christmas Day. Each one includes an opening prayer, Scripture readings, a brief devotion, discussion questions, a suggested Christmas carol, and a concluding prayer. We've also provided an optional "family challenge" to carry your Advent experience through the week.

We've provided a candle for you to use, or you may choose to purchase an Advent wreath with a separate candle for each Sunday (available on Amazon, Etsy, and elsewhere). Engage younger people in your home by inviting them to light or blow out the candle (where developmentally appropriate).

Many of the Old Testament verses you will read for Advent were written during a time when God's people were in exile. The kingdoms of Israel and Judah had been destroyed because of the wickedness and unfaithfulness of the people. Those who survived were sorry for their disobedience and longing for the arrival of one true King who would set things right.

May this guide help you take a few moments in the hustle and bustle of the season to reflect on the One whose arrival 2000 years ago changed everything.

Hope

First Sunday of Advent
November 30

Gathering prayer

Invite someone to read this prayer (inspired by Psalm 25:5):
"Guide us in your truth and teach us, for you are God our Savior, and our hope is in you all day long."

Light the Hope candle. Take a moment to enjoy its flickering beauty and light.

Scripture readings

Read Isaiah 9:1-7. (Families with younger children may choose to just read Isaiah 9:6-7). Read Romans 8:22-25.

Devotion

The people of Israel knew what it was to wait in darkness. For centuries they looked forward to the day when God's promised Messiah would come and rescue them. Isaiah's prophecy gave them hope: a child would be born who would bring justice and peace. That hope kept them trusting when circumstances looked impossible.

We, too, live in a world full of darkness and brokenness. But like Israel, we hold to hope—not wishful thinking, but the certainty that God keeps His promises. Just as Jesus came the first time, He will come again to set all things right.

Advent is our season to wait with confidence: God's light has come, and His Kingdom will come in fullness.

Talk together

What are you hoping for this Advent season?

Listen or sing together

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is a carol that captures the longing and hope of people waiting for the Messiah to arrive.

You can find each Sunday's carol in the Christmas with the Creek Spotify playlist, scan QR code below to access.

Concluding prayer

"Lord, thank You for the hope we have in Christ. As we wait for His return, fill us with confidence in Your promises and strength to keep walking in faith."

Blow out the candle or let it continue to burn

Family Challenge

Make a Hope Jar and fill it with that you are hoping for this Advent season. You can work on this throughout the week. Revisit on Christmas Day!



Peace

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7

Gathering prayer

Invite someone to read this prayer (inspired by 2 Thessalonians 3:16): "May the Lord of peace himself give us peace at all times and in every way."

Light the Hope and Peace candles. Take a moment to enjoy their flickering beauty and light.

Scripture readings

Read Micah 5:2-5a and Philippians 4:4-7.

Devotion

In Micah's day, God's people were surrounded by enemies and weighed down by sin. They longed for peace. God promised a ruler to come from Bethlehem who would shepherd His people and bring true peace. That promise was fulfilled when Jesus was born—the Prince of Peace. But the peace He brings is deeper than the absence of conflict. It's reconciliation with God, the end of enmity (enemy-ness) between us and Him. And one day, when Jesus returns, He will bring perfect peace to all creation. Today we live in between: we know His peace in our hearts, even as we long for the day when conflict and fears will cease forever.

Talk together

Where in your life are you feeling surrounded or weighed down? What is something we read today that can help you experience peace?

Listen or sing together

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" is a carol that captures our longing for "peace on earth" and the promise of peace that Jesus' coming brings.

You can find each Sunday's carol in the Christmas with the Creek Spotify playlist, scan QR Code below.

Concluding prayer

"Jesus, Prince of Peace, calm our anxious hearts and make us peacemakers in Your name. Give us courage to trust You as we wait for the day when Your perfect peace fills the earth."

Blow out the candles or let them continue to burn.

Family Challenge

Use the gift of peace to pass on peace others. Each family member picks one way to bring peace to someone self at school, work, home, church or in the neighborhood.



Joy

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14

Gathering prayer

Invite someone to read this prayer (inspired by Psalm 16:11): "Lord, make known to us the paths of life; we know that in your presence there is fullness of joy."

Light the Hope, Peace, and Joy candles. Take a moment to enjoy their flickering beauty and light.

Scripture readings

Read Isaiah 35:1-6 and Revelation 21:1-5. (Families with younger children may choose to just read Revelation 21:1-5.)

Devotion

The prophets described the coming of God's kingdom with images of joy: deserts blooming, the lame leaping, sorrow fleeing away. For God's people in exile, such joy seemed almost impossible. But the promise of redemption gave them reason to rejoice, even as they waited.

The angel announced Jesus' birth as "good news of great joy for all the people." His first coming brought joy because God had drawn near to save. And we await an even greater joy when Christ returns and wipes away every tear. Advent joy reminds us that our future is secure—no sorrow is stronger than God's promise.

Talk together

When you think about the Christmas story, what brings you the most joy?

Listen or sing together

"Joy to the World" celebrates Jesus coming not just as a baby in a manger but the king who rules with truth and grace—what a reason to rejoice!

You can find each Sunday's carol in the Christmas with the Creek Spotify playlist, scan the QR code below.

Concluding prayer

"Father, thank You for the joy that comes from knowing Jesus. Help us rejoice even in the waiting and give us eyes to see glimpses of Your joy breaking into our lives now."

Blow out the candles or let them continue to burn.

Family Challenge

Plan a "joy surprise" for a family friend, a neighbor, a grandparent, a teacher, or a coworker. Write a note, bake some cookies, or draw a picture and surprise someone who may be in need of joy this season.



Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21

Gathering prayer

Invite someone to read this prayer (inspired by Psalm 90:14): "Satisfy us with your steadfast love, Lord, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

Light the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love candles. Take a moment to enjoy their flickering beauty and light.

Scripture reading

Read Jeremiah 31:31–34 and 1 John 4:9–12.

Devotion

God's people longed for a new covenant that would heal their hearts and restore them to Him. His motivation was love—the love of a Father who would not abandon His children. That promise was fulfilled when God sent His only Son into the world.

The coming of Jesus is the ultimate demonstration of God's love, a love that saves and transforms. And when Christ comes again, we will experience His love in its fullness, face to face. Advent calls us to live in that love now—receiving it, being shaped by it, and sharing it freely with others.

Talk together

"Jesus Loves Me" is one of the first songs many of us learned to sing. How does knowing Jesus loves you shape how you live?

Listen or sing together

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" reminds us that in God's great love He gave us a "wondrous gift." Jesus is indeed the best gift of all!

You can find each Sunday's carol in the Christmas with the Creek Spotify playlist, scan the QR code below.

Concluding prayer

"Father, thank You for Your steadfast love shown through Jesus. Teach us to love others as You have loved us, as we wait for the day when Your love is all in all."

Blow out the candles or let them continue to burn.

Family Challenge

Share with each other one thing you really love and appreciate about each person in your home.



Christ

Christmas Day
December 25

Opening prayer

Invites someone to read this prayer (based on Isaiah 9:6):

"Father, thank you for sending your Son to be born to us and to be given to us. We praise Him as our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace."

Light the Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ candles. Take a moment to enjoy their flickering beauty and light.

Scripture readings

Read Matthew 1:18–23 and John 1:1–5, 14. (If you have time, also read through Luke 2:1–21.)

Devotion

On Christmas we celebrate that the waiting was not in vain. God has come. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. The eternal Word stepped into history, taking on flesh, bringing light into the darkness.

And this same Jesus will come again. Christmas joy looks back to Bethlehem and forward to the day when Christ will return and dwell with His people forever. Advent waiting gives way to Christmas celebration: our Savior has come, our Savior is coming again, and His presence changes everything.

Talk together

How has this year's practice of Advent changed how you experience Christmas Day?

Listen or sing together

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" celebrates the arrival of the newborn king—Jesus, our Emmanuel!

You can find each Sunday's carol in the Christmas with the Creek Spotify playlist, scan the QR code below.

Concluding prayer

"Jesus, we praise You for coming into our world as our Savior. Dwell with us today and always and prepare us for the joy of Your return."

Blow out the candles or let them continue to burn.

Family Challenge

Take a look inside the Hope Jar you created on the first Sunday of Advent. What were your hopes? How have they been fulfilled?





Christmas Communion

Today, we gather to celebrate the greatest gift of all—Jesus,
our Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace,
and Immanuel—God with us.

He came down into our world, wrapped in humility,
bearing unconditional love.

May His love fill our hearts, stir our minds,
and awaken our souls to wonder.

May we never grow weary of this story,
never take for granted the gift of His presence,
and never forget the depth of His sacrifice for us.
Let us receive this bread and this cup with gratitude,
remembering that His love bridges heaven and earth,
and that through Him, we are never alone.

TAKE COMMUNION TOGETHER

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NIV)



Bethlehem Dinner

PRAYER

Dear God,
Tonight we remember a quiet night,
In a small town called Bethlehem,
Where Your Son, The Messiah, Our Savior,
Jesus was born.
As we come to this table,
We imagine the world waiting,
Waiting in darkness, hoping for light.
We thank You for Mary, who said "yes,"
And for Joseph, who trusted You.
We remember the angels who sang,
The shepherds who ran to see,
And the star that shone above the stable.

(All together)

Thank You, God, for the gift of Jesus —
Our Savior, our Messiah, our Light, our King.

Bless this food we are about to eat,
Bless our family and friends,
Bless our conversation and may it bring joy
to your ears,
And bless every heart that longs for peace.
As we eat and remember,
Help us to be full of awe and wonder!

Full of hope, Full of joy,
Full of peace, And Full of love.
Let us carry the light of Jesus
Into the world tonight and always.

(All together)

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace on earth to all people!
Amen.

Questions:

- What are some of your favorite holiday traditions that help you remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus?
- Share a favorite memory from a past Christmas or family gathering where you felt God's presence or blessing
- If you could pray for one thing this Christmas season, what would it be and why?
- What is one blessing from this past year for which you are especially thankful to God?
- What is something you are looking forward to in the coming year and how do you hope God will guide you through it?
- What is your favorite Christmas food, treat, or special dish that brings your family together?
- Can you share a time this year when someone's kindness reflected God's love to you?





Bethlehem Dinner

Celebrate the Joy of a Bethlehem Dinner!

Step into the story of Jesus' birth with a warm and inviting Bethlehem Dinner. Gather with your family, friends, or life group for an evening of celebration, reflection, and togetherness. This is more than a meal, it's a chance to experience the wonder of Bethlehem, the humble manger, and the incredible gift of Christ's birth.

Enjoy good food, heartfelt conversation, and moments of prayer and thanksgiving. In this box, you'll find a possible menu, meaningful discussion questions, and a short liturgy to guide your gathering and make the evening truly special.

Come together, celebrate, and share the blessing of a Bethlehem Dinner!



MENU

Bethlehem Dinner

Main

- Chicken
- Turkey
- Fish
- Lamb

Sides

- Flatbreads
- Pita Bread
- Hummus
- Veggies
- Salad

Drinks & Desserts

- Grape Juice
- Spiced Herbal Tea
- Citrus Water with Mint



