2026



Merry Christmas

THE CREEK STAFF

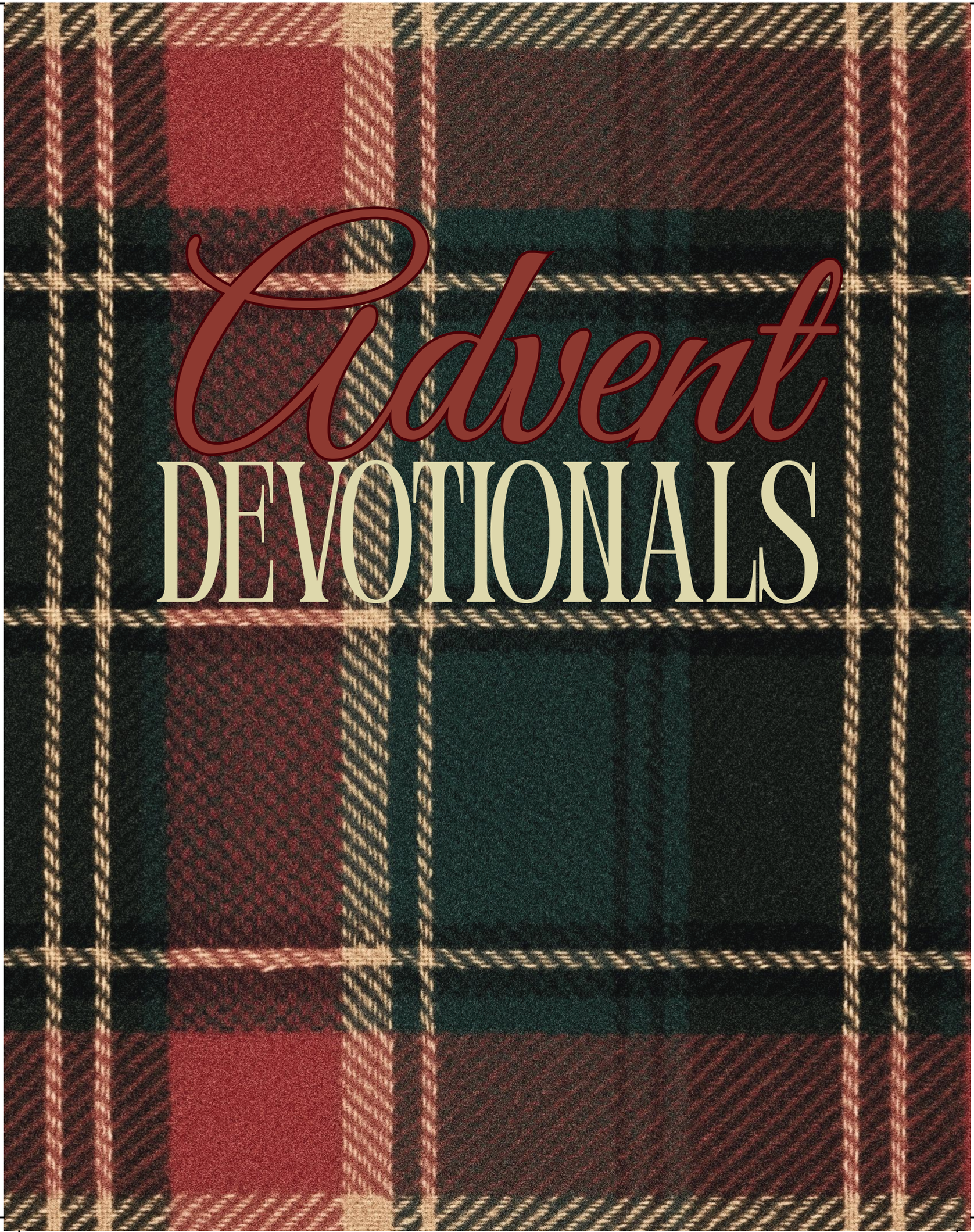
We hope this Christmas Box brings a little extra sparkle and joy to your home this season. Every item inside was thoughtfully chosen with you in mind, inviting your family to slow down, celebrate, and make space for Jesus this Advent.

This year, as a church, we are making room to sit in the story of Advent and remember the gifts we find in Jesus: Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. Our prayer is that each piece in this box helps your family pause, draw closer to Jesus and one another, and experience the beauty of Emmanuel, God with us.

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 the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus.

Merry Christmas!
With cheer and love,
The Creek


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 prepare your hearts, minds, and souls for the celebration of the arrival of Jesus—God made flesh—on Christmas Day.

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 a family experience for each of the four Sundays of Advent as well as Christmas Day, along with suggested ways to engage throughout the week. In this booklet you will find:

- A weekly devotional experience designed for ages preteen through adult.
- A weekly devotional experience designed for early childhood and early elementary.
- Scriptures, questions, and activities you can incorporate during meals or other family times throughout the week.
- An Advent "wreath" (in the center of this booklet) with places for the five candles of Advent and daily scratch-off experiences to enjoy.

Each week's Advent devotional experience includes an opening prayer, a focus question, Scripture readings, a brief devotion, discussion questions, a suggested Christmas carol, and a concluding prayer.

We've provided candles for you to use on the "wreath", or you may choose to purchase an Advent wreath with a 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).

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 29

Gathering prayer
Invite someone to read this prayer inspired by Psalm 25:5: “Dear God, 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.

Focus question
What’s something you’ve waited a long time for? How did the waiting feel?

Scripture reading
Read Luke 1:5-25

Devotion
God’s people had been waiting for *centuries.* For generations the words of the prophets had been repeated—passed down from grandparents to parents to children. Even as empire after empire trampled over Israel, God’s people held out hope for the king who would come and “reign in righteousness” (Isaiah 32:1).

Zechariah the priest was waiting, too. He was waiting for the one who would make things right, but he was also waiting for a child of his own—someone he could tell about God’s promises of a Savior. And yet when what he was waiting for was announced, it took him by surprise. He would have a son. And that son would “make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17). Because of Zechariah’s inability to believe the angel’s message, he lost the ability to speak until his son, John, was born. His waiting lacked *hope*.

The first Sunday of Advent is about *hope*. And hope naturally involves *waiting*. When we get what we want the moment we want it, there is nothing to hope for. Most of us don’t like waiting and will avoid it when we can. We like overnight shipping and a GPS that routes us around stopped traffic. We like peeking at our presents ahead of time and making instant macaroni and cheese. We want things *now*.

But waiting time isn’t wasted time. When we wait, we can learn patience. When we wait, we can experience excitement and anticipation. When we wait, we can identify what it is we truly want.

Right now, we are waiting for Christmas. What are you looking forward to about Christmas? What else are you waiting for?

And what might God want to do in you while we wait? Lamentations 3:25-26 says, “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

Waiting teaches us endurance (to keep on going when something is hard), trust (to believe God is good and will take care of you), patience (to wait without giving up or complaining), and contentment (to be thankful for what you have instead of always wishing you had something different). And we wait with *hope,* because Jesus came once as a baby and will come again as the King of kings.

Zechariah had to wait nine months without speaking. But when his son was born, he opened his mouth and praised God, remembering what God had done in the past and trusting what He will do in the future (Luke 1:67-79). This week, look for ways to praise God while you wait—and when you get what you’re waiting for.

Talk Together

- What has God done in the past that you can remind yourself of when you are waiting for something? (This could be something recorded in Scripture or something you’ve experienced in your own life.)
- Which fruit of waiting—endurance, trust, patience, or contentment—do you most need in your life right now? How would you “wait” differently if that characteristic were present in your life?
- What is a way you can give thanks and praise to God while you wait?

Listen Together

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” from *Christmas Songs of Worship* by Chris Tomlin is a song that expresses the longing of waiting—and the rejoicing when our hopes are fulfilled.

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

Pray Together

Read or invite someone to read this prayer: “Lord, thank you for keeping Your promises. Help us to have endurance, trust, patience, and contentment while we wait for all your promises to be fulfilled. Thank you that Advent reminds us that You kept Your promise to send Your Son, Jesus. Amen.”

Kid's Devotion

HOPE

Scripture Reading
Read Luke 1:5-25

Devotion
Today we are going to talk about the word hope.
To have hope means to look forward to something good that you believe will happen. And hope often means waiting.

People hope for all sorts of things. Maybe you have hoped for a certain gift for your birthday, hoped for a special trip, or hoped that someone you love would feel better. When we hope for something, we often have to wait for it.

In our Bible story today, we meet Zechariah and Elizabeth. They were older and had never had children of their own. We can imagine that they spent many years hoping and waiting for a baby.

But they weren't the only ones waiting.

Zechariah, Elizabeth, and the rest of God's people were also waiting for something much bigger. God had promised that a Savior, called the Messiah, would come to make right the wrong, sad, and broken things in the world. God's people had been waiting for this promise for hundreds of years.

Can you guess who they were waiting for?
Jesus!

Waiting can be hard. We usually want what we are hoping for right now. But waiting is not wasted time. While we wait, God can teach us to be patient and to trust him.

Zechariah and Elizabeth had to wait a long time, but God had not forgotten them. At just the right time, God kept His promise and gave them a son, John. John would grow up to prepare people for Jesus.

And God's people waited for Jesus, too.

Then, at just the right time, Jesus came into the world!

Kid's Devotion

Some options for this week...

Talk Together

- What is something you are hoping and waiting for right now?
- How does waiting for something make you feel?

Listen Together

"Hope Has a Name" by Passion & Kristian Stanfill

Read Together

- Luke 1:8-17
- Luke 1:57-66

Do These Together

- Draw Your Hope: Draw a picture of something you are hoping for. Then write or talk about how you can trust God while you wait.

- Practice Waiting: Choose one thing this week that you usually rush through or complain about waiting for. Instead, use that time to pray and practice patience - *waiting kindly.*

Pray Together

Dear God,
Thank You for giving us hope. Sometimes waiting is hard because we want things to happen right away. Help us remember that You are good, You are faithful, and You always keep Your promises.

Thank You for sending Jesus, just as You promised. Help us trust You while we wait and help us remember all the good things You have already done. Teach us to have hope, to be patient, and to praise You even while we wait.

We love You.
Amen.

PEACE

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6

Gathering prayer
Invite someone to read this prayer inspired by John 14:27: “Lord, thank you for giving us peace. Help our hearts not to be troubled or afraid.”

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

Focus question
What kinds of things tend to make you mad, upset, or scared?

Scripture readings
Read Matthew 2:1-12

Devotion
Not everyone was excited about Jesus being born. King Herod saw the baby in the manger as a threat. When the Magi (wise men) from the east told him that a king of the Jews had been born, Herod was “disturbed.” That’s an understatement. And the opposite of the focus of this Sunday of Advent—peace.

Herod lies to the Magi and ultimately kills innocent children because he can’t handle the competition. He wants to be king—the only king—and he’ll do whatever it takes to keep it that way. Sometimes we’re a little like Herod. If someone comes along whom we perceive as a threat, we attack. We don’t resort to murder, but we may resort to mean comments or sarcastic remarks. When our peace is disturbed, it’s easy to lash out.

So it’s important to pay attention to this question: Where does our sense of peace come from? Does it come from feeling confident? From getting what we want? From being looked at or thought of in a certain way? As long as our peace comes from our circumstances, our peace, like Herod’s, can be easily disturbed.

If only Herod had known the truth.

Jesus didn't come to disturb his peace but to be his peace. And our peace, too. The prophet Isaiah says that Jesus is the "Prince of peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Don't get me wrong. The peace of Jesus doesn't mean we'll never have problems, never have conflict, and never feel threatened.

Instead, Jesus gives a new foundation of peace. Rather than our peace being based on our circumstances, it can be based on Him.

What if Herod would have responded like this: "I like being king, and if a new king comes along, that will take some getting used to. But who I am isn't based on a title. It's based on my identity as a child of God. Because of Jesus, I can have peace that no one can take away, because I know one day He will return and make everything right."

OK, so it's not very likely Herod would ever make a speech like that. But we can. We know that Jesus didn't just come to be a baby in a manger. He came to pay the price for our sin, making peace between us and God, and He will come back for His second advent and make all things new.

Talk Together

- How do you tend to respond when things don't go your way—when your "peace" is disturbed?
- Take a breath and spend a few moments looking at the flame of the Peace candle. Then share your answer to this question: How can Jesus bring you peace?

Listen Together

"Peace" by Bethel Music isn't a traditional Christmas song, but it paints a picture of how Jesus is indeed our Prince of Peace.

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

Pray Together

Read or invite someone to read this prayer: "Lord, when we feel afraid, angry, or threatened, help us remember that You came to bring us peace. Help us turn to You to receive that peace each time something disturbs us. Amen."

PEACE

Kids Devotional

Scripture Reading
Read Matthew 2:1-12.

Devotion
This week we are exploring the word *peace*.

When you hear the word peace, you might think about being quiet, calm, or getting along with other people. But Jesus gives us a peace that helps even when life feels hard, scary, or sad.

In today's Bible story, we meet a king named Herod. When the wise men came looking for a new king who had been born, do you remember how Herod reacted? Read verse 3 again. He was disturbed and afraid this new king might take away his power.

When he felt threatened, he responded with fear, anger, and eventually caused great harm. Sometimes we can respond in similar ways. We may not hurt people like Herod did, but what happens when someone takes our toy, leaves us out, says something mean, or changes our plans? We can become angry, say something unkind, or try to get our own way.

But Jesus came to show us a different way.

Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. He didn't come to promise that hard or scary things would never happen. He came to give us a peace that help us through these hard, scary things.

We don't have to make everything peaceful on our own.
We can turn to Jesus and trust Him when life doesn’t feel peaceful, because we know he loves us and is with us.

PEACE

Kids Devotional

Some options for this week...

Talk Together

- What kinds of things make you feel angry, worried, or afraid?
- What do you usually do when things don't go your way?
- What are some things you can do to help you feel peace when your body feels sad, angry, or scared? (Examples - say a prayer, take a few deep breaths, go for a walk, get a tight hug from loved one.)

Listen Together

"His Name Shall Be" by Matt Redman

Read Together

- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Philippians 4:6-7

Do These Together

- Notice Peace: Think about someone in your life who is peaceful. What do they do that helps others feel peaceful? Write them a note telling them what you admire about them.

- Make Space for Peace: Turn off your screens and other distractions. Sit together near your Christmas tree or candles for a few quiet minutes. Take some slow breaths and thank Jesus for being your peace.

Pray Together

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for being our Prince of Peace. When we feel angry, worried, afraid, or upset, help us remember we can turn to You. Help us not to let our fear or anger control the way we treat others. Help us trust You when things don't go the way we want. Teach us to be people who bring Your peace to the people around us. We are so thankful that You are with us.

Jesus, You are our peace.
Amen.

JOY

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13

Gathering prayer
Invite someone to read this prayer inspired by Romans 15:13: "God of hope, fill us with joy and peace as we trust in you!"

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

Focus question
Share a time when you experienced joy!

Scripture readings
Read Luke 1:26-55.

Devotion
Sometimes joy comes in unexpected ways.

There Mary was, a young woman minding her own business, when along comes an angel with startling news—Mary was going to have a baby. And not just *any* baby. *God's son.* The king that Mary's people had been waiting for so long.

Mary probably felt a lot of things when the angel appeared to her: confusion, fear, uncertainty. Luke tells us she was "troubled." As her pregnancy progressed and her belly grew, she may have felt even more things: excitement, concern, discomfort, embarrassment.

But no matter what she was *feeling*, Mary experienced *joy.*

Because joy is not just a feeling.

Paul tells us in Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). But how can we always rejoice—always experience joy? Are we supposed to stop ever feeling sad or scared or angry or uncomfortable? Are we just supposed to be happy, happy, happy all the time?

If that's what it means to have joy, then Paul failed. And so did Jesus.

Jesus was angry. Jesus cried. Jesus experienced anguish and grief.

The Bible wouldn't tell us to do something that wasn't possible. Something that even Jesus Himself didn't do! So to have joy cannot mean to never have any bad or sad feelings or to never be hurt or angry or uncomfortable.

Then what does it mean to have joy? Let's take a look again at Mary. Despite her circumstances and her emotions, she recognized something important: the presence of her Savior. Elizabeth recognized it, too—and so did the baby in her womb!

The reason we can have joy—no matter our circumstances and no matter what emotions we are experiencing—is Jesus. We don't have to be fake happy. We can be honest about what we are feeling. But we can also remember, like Mary, that God will fulfill His promises. Jesus came once to save us from our sin, and He will come again to wipe away every tear from our eyes (Revelation 21:4) and all things will be made right. Jesus truly brought joy to the world—a joy that nothing can take away.

Talk Together

- What do you think—can you have sad/bad/mad feelings and still have joy?
- When you are feeling hard things, what can you do to experience joy? (Hint: You might try what Mary does in Luke 1:46-55.)

Listen Together

"Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)" from Christmas by Phil Wickham.

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

Pray Together

Read or invite someone to read this prayer based on Mary's song of praise in Luke 1:46-55: "Lord, You are the holy, Mighty One who shows mercy from generation to generation. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. Amen."

Kid’s Devotional

JOY

Scripture Reading
Read Luke 1:26-45.

Devotion
This week we are talking about joy.
What do you think of when you hear the word joy? Maybe you think of Christmas presents, playing with your friends, eating your favorite food, or doing something that makes you laugh. Those things can certainly make us happy! But the joy the Bible talks about is even greater. Let’s look into it!

Mary had just received some incredible news. She would have a baby in a miraculous way, and her baby would be Jesus, the promised Savior. Mary probably felt many different things. She may have felt excited, confused, afraid, or overwhelmed. And yet, Mary also experienced joy.

Why?

Because she knew something important: God was with her, and God was keeping His promises. Mary wasn't pretending everything was easy. She didn't have to pretend she wasn't afraid. She could have uncomfortable feelings, like fear and anxiety, and still have joy. This is what the Bible teaches us about joy - we can have deep happiness and contentment even when things are hard or uncomfortable because we know God loves us and cares for us deeply.

And Mary wasn't the only one who experienced joy at the news of Jesus. Did you catch who else felt joy?

Reread verses 41-44.

When Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, Elizabeth's baby, John, leaped for joy inside her belly! The news of the coming Messiah even made Elizabeth’s unborn baby feel joy!

How cool is that?!

JOY

Some options for this week...

Talk Together

- Can you have sad, angry, or worried feelings and still have joy? Why?
- What are some things that bring you joy?
- When you are having a hard day, what is something you can remember about Jesus that can bring you joy?

Listen Together

"Sounding Joy" by Ellie Holcomb

Read Together

- Psalm 94:19
- Acts 2:28

Do These Together

- Bring Someone Joy: Look for ways to bring joy to someone else this week - give a hug, tell someone something you like about them, or help a family member.

- Choose Joy Together: Do something as a family that brings you joy - bake a holiday treat, play a game, watch a Christmas movie, eat a special meal, or take a walk together.

Pray Together

Dear God,
Thank You for giving us joy through Jesus. Thank You that we don't have to pretend to be happy when we are sad, worried, or angry. You know how we feel, and You are with us in every feeling.

Help us remember who You are and all the good things You have done. Help us trust Your promises like Mary did. Fill our hearts with joy because Jesus came to save us, and because we know He will come again and make all things right.
Thank You for the joy that nothing can take away.

Amen.

LOVE

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20

Gathering prayer
Invite someone to read this prayer inspired by Psalm 36:5: “Lord, we gather here in love because of Your great love for us, which reaches to the skies. Amen.”
Light the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love candles. Take a moment to enjoy their flickering beauty and light.

Focus question
What are some examples of God’s love for us?

Scripture readings
John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-9; Luke 2:1-7

Devotion
Today we read the story we’ve been waiting for—the birth of Jesus! This time of year, we have so many reminders of the story of Jesus’ birth. Look around for them. Maybe you have a manger scene in your home with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, sheep, donkeys, an angel, and of course, baby Jesus. Or pictures of Bethlehem on a Christmas card on your fridge. Or a star on top of your tree.

We don’t have to look far for images of Jesus as a baby in a manger. We can see all around us reminders that He came.

But what reminds us why He came?
Jesus came because of love.

1John 4:8 tells us that God is love. Everything He does is loving. With love, He created the world. With love, He created human beings and invited them into a relationship with Him. With love, He grieved our sin. With love, He made a way for us to return to Him, and that way is Jesus.

Jesus is the supreme example of God’s love. Because Jesus didn’t come to stay a baby in a manger.

He came to live a perfect human life—one of complete and perfect love for God and others.

He came to die as a perfect sacrifice—to pay the price for our sins so that we could experience God’s love forever.

He rose again as a perfect king—who will return one day and make all things right and new.

So, when you think about Christmas, don't just think of the baby in the manger. Remember the loving Heavenly Father who sent His only Son, so that any of us who believe in Him can have everlasting, loving life with Him.

Talk Together

- How can we create reminders in our home of the "why" of Jesus' birth?
- 1 John 4:7 commands us to love one another because love comes from God. What is a specific way we can show God's love for someone else between now and Christmas Day?

Listen Together

"Noel" from Miracle of Love by Chris Tomlin and Lauren Daigle

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

Pray Together

Read or invite someone to read this prayer based on Matthew 22:37-39: "Father God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. We are grateful for Your love. Help us to love You with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and to love others as we love ourselves. Amen."

LOVE

Kid's Devotional

Scripture Reading
Read Luke 2:1-7 & John 3:16.

Devotion
Mary's baby is here!
The baby God's people had been waiting for. The baby who brings hope, peace, joy, and love. All around us, we see reminders that Jesus came. Maybe you have a nativity scene in your home or a Christmas tree with a star on top. We see reminders of baby Jesus everywhere this time of year.

But *why* did Jesus come?

Jesus came because God loves us. The Bible tells us that God is love. God created people so He could share his love with us. But our sin broke our relationship with God. Remember what sin is? Anything we *think*, *say*, or *do* that disobeys God.

So God made a plan for us to come back to Him.

He sent Jesus.

Jesus didn't come just to be a cute baby in a manger. Jesus left the glory of heaven and came into our world as a tiny baby. He grew up just like we do. He learned to walk and talk. He laughed and played with friends. He ate meals with his family and helped in his home. He probably even skinned his knees and cried like we do sometimes.

Then Jesus grew up and became a man. He loved people who were lonely and cared for people who were hurting. He welcomed people who were left out and forgave people who had done wrong. He is the BEST example of love for us.

But his love didn't stop there. He knew there was an important job for him to do that required a lot of love - dying on a cross. That was the plan for us to be able to come back to God after the brokenness that sin caused.

So Jesus died on the cross, was buried in a tomb, and then he came back to life three days later! God's power in him and his great love for made it possible for him to do this!

Jesus' love is SO cool, and he models how we should love, too!

LOVE

Some options for this week...

Talk Together

- What are some ways you know God loves you?
- If you could play with Jesus when he was a child, what might you enjoy doing with him?
- Think of someone who loves you very much. What do they do for you that helps you know they love you?

Listen Together

“Miracle of Love” by Chris Tomlin

Read Together

- 1 John 4:7-12
- John 15:12-14

Do These Together

- Remember God's Love: Draw a large heart on a piece of paper. Inside the heart, write or draw ways you have experienced God's love. Hang it somewhere in your home as a reminder of God's great love for you.

- Read About Love: Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 together. Talk about what these verses teach us about what love looks like. Choose one way to practice loving someone in your family this week.

Pray Together

Dear God,
Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that Jesus came to be with us, to show us Your love, and to save us from our sin.
Help us remember that Christmas is about more than a baby in a manger. Help us remember why Jesus came. Because You love us, help us love You with all our hearts and love the people around us. Show us someone who needs Your love this week and help us put Your love into action.
Thank You for Jesus, the greatest gift of love.
We love You, God.
Amen.

CHRIST

Christmas Day
December 25

Gathering prayer
Read or invite someone to read this prayer based on Isaiah 9:6: “We praise You, God, because to us a child is born! He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Thank you for the hope, peace, joy, and love that are ours in Christ Jesus, Your Son! Amen.”
Light the Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Christ candles. Take a moment to enjoy their flickering beauty and light.

Focus question
What have you been looking forward to the most about Christmas Day?

Scripture readings
Luke 2:8-20

Devotion
It’s Christmas Day! Our Advent journey has been preparing our hearts for this celebration!

We have admired the flickering light of the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love candles, reminding us that Jesus came to be a light in the darkness.

We have waited in eager anticipation of our Christmas celebrations. Maybe you’ve been excited about giving someone a special gift or opening a beautifully wrapped package with your name on it or gathering with people you love or eating your favorite food.

The shepherds weren’t on the lookout for anything in particular. The only thing they were waiting for was the dawn. But angels burst into their dark night with jubilant cries of “Glory to God in the highest heaven” and the incredible news that the Savior had been born. The shepherds hurried off to see the baby and when they had seen Him, they spread the word about Him. What a wonderful way to respond to the coming of Jesus!

But there is another way to respond. Luke doesn’t just tell us about the shepherds. He also tells us about Mary. Mary isn’t running around with her Christmas to-do list. She is treasuring what has happened. She is pondering—which means slowing down and thinking deeply. Mary is staring into the face of her infant Son. Mary is quietly worshiping.

In some ways, our Christmas Day often has a lot in common with the shepherds—full of excitement and energy. Places to go, people to see, news to spread.

Let's take time right now to have a Christmas Day moment that is more like Mary's. One where we quiet our minds and bodies and take time to slow down and think deeply, treasuring who Jesus is and what He means to us.

Talk Together
Rather than a time of conversation, join together in a time of quiet reflection. You may use the instrumental music below to be your "timer" or select a length of time that is appropriate for your situation and the ages of the people involved. Consider providing drawing/coloring materials for children and invite them to quietly draw something that they think about when they think of Jesus.

Listen Together
"Away in a Manger" from Winter Nights by Holly Jones.

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

Prayer Together
Conclude your time of quiet reflection by reading this prayer: "Jesus, thank you for coming to our world. For bringing us hope, peace, joy, and love. Help us to treasure You. To carry Your love with us and to share it with others. Happy Birthday, Jesus! Amen."

CHRIST

Kid's Devotional

Scripture Reading
Read Luke 2:8-20.

Devotion
Woohoo! The waiting is done! Jesus is here!

For the past four weeks, we have been getting ready for Christmas. We have talked about hope, peace, joy, and love. Today, we get to celebrate the reason we have all of those things: Jesus!

Jesus is the long-expected Savior. God's people had waited for Him for hundreds of years, and now the promised Messiah had finally come.

And do you know who got the first announcement?

Shepherds!

Shepherds were ordinary, hard-working people. They spent their days outside with sheep. They probably smelled like sheep, had dirt under their fingernails, and weren't considered very important by the people around them. But Jesus came for them.

Later, wise men from far away would come looking for Jesus, too. They were educated and important. They paid attention to the stars and studied scrolls to figure out answers to hard questions. They wore clothes of fine fabrics and brought expensive gifts – Jesus came for them, too!

And Jesus came for you!

Jesus didn't come just for people who are important, or people who have everything figured out, or people who are really good at following the rules. Jesus came for all people. He came because God loves the whole world. That's why the shepherds were so excited. When they saw Jesus, they couldn't keep the good news to themselves!

They went out and told everyone what they had seen and heard.
They shared with everyone that our long-expected Jesus - our source of *hope*, *peace*, *joy*, and *love,* had come!

No more waiting!

Jesus is the greatest gift the world has ever received,
and we celebrate Him today!

CHRIST

Kid's Devotional

Some options for this week...

Talk Together

- What are you most excited about today?
- What is something you want to thank Jesus for today?
- If you were giving Jesus a birthday gift, what would you give Him? Why?

Listen Together

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Shane & Shane.

Do These Together

- Celebrate Like the Shepherds: The shepherds couldn't keep the good news to themselves. Tell someone today why you are celebrating Christmas and why Jesus is important to you.

- Give the Gift of Joy: Pause from opening your own gifts and watch someone else open one. Enjoy the joy on their face. Look for other ways to make someone happy today.

- Treasure Jesus: Before the day is over, take a few minutes together to tell God what you are thankful for about Jesus. Thank Him for His hope, peace, joy, love, and the gift of salvation.

Pray Together

Dear Jesus,
Happy Birthday!
Thank You for coming into our world. Thank You for being our Savior and for coming for all people, including us.

Today we celebrate You with happy hearts! Thank You for the hope, peace, joy, and love You give us. Thank You for loving us so much that You came to save us.
Help us celebrate You, tell others about You, and treasure You in our hearts.
Jesus, You are the greatest gift! We love You and we celebrate You today!
Amen.



THE CREEK

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Waiting for Christ

Start here

November 29 — HOPE

November 30

December 1 — HE IS COMING!

December 2

December 3 — ΑΩ ALPHA & OMEGA

December 4

December 5

December 6 — PEACE

December 7 — WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

December 8 — MIGHTY GOD

December 9 — EVERLASTING FATHER

December 10 — PRINCE OF PEACE

December 11

December 12

December 13 — JOY

December 14

December 15

December 16

December 17

December 18

December 19

December 20 — LOVE

December 21

December 22

December 23

December 24

December 25 — CHRIST

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

Celebrate Christmas Day by centering your family around Jesus and the gift of Emmanuel, God with us.

Gather your family together and read through this liturgy. Choose one person to be the Leader, and have everyone else read the parts marked All together.

As you move through the liturgy, you'll remember the story of Jesus' birth, His life, His death, and the gift He gave us through His body and blood. When prompted, take the bread and cup together as a family.

Take your time. Read slowly. Let this be a simple moment to pause, remember, and celebrate that Jesus has come and God is with us.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Leader: During Advent, we watch, and wait, and hope.

All: During Advent, we remember the one who was, and is, and is to come.

Leader: And we remember the gifts Jesus received at his birth and the gift He gave on the cross.

All: The gift of gold recognized His Kingship. We remember the sign on the cross, "King of the Jews" and the words of the soldier, "Surely this must be the Son of God."

Leader: The gift of frankincense anticipated Jesus becoming our High Priest. We remember the Word became flesh and serves as a mediator between God and man! His arms stretched out wide on the cross is a picture of God and man being drawn together.

All: The gift of myrrh was of great value and was used to prepare bodies for their burial. We remember that Jesus would bear the full weight of suffering on our behalf and that His dead body would be placed in a borrowed tomb.

Leader: The one who came in the flesh is the one who took bread, gave thanks, and broke it. Jesus gave it to his disciples, saying,

All: "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Take the bread together.

Leader: In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying,

All: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Take the cup together.

Leader: Today we celebrate the mystery and wonder of Christmas: the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. The one we have waited for has come.

All: Christ has come!
Emmanuel — God is with us!

CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOUR 2026



7104 Bel Moore Cir.
Indianapolis, IN 46259

6211 N 500 E.
Franklin, IN

4743 Ferguson Rd
Indianapolis

8925 Depot Dr.
Indianapolis

51 Middle St.
Greenwood, IN 46143

Corner of Madison Ave &
Banta Rd

CONVO GUIDE

- Prompt: When you see a light, you really like, think about what you love about Jesus. If you want to share it, please share!!

- If you could decorate our house any way you wanted, how would you decorate it?

- What makes the Christmas season feel special to you?

- What is one thing you are very excited about this Christmas season?

- Have you ever heard the word, Advent?
  - What do you think it means? --Advent is a time when we wait for Jesus.
  - What are some things you don't like about waiting?
  - What are some things you like about waiting?
  - Is there anything you are waiting on right now?

- Why would God want us to spend time waiting instead of jumping straight into Christmas?

- As we are out looking at lights, we can remember that Jesus is the light of the world. How can you shine brightly for Jesus? Let's name a few things together.

- As we head home, can you tell me the thing that you love about Jesus?

- Pray together thanking God for teaching us about the waiting and for being with us.

KINGDOM CARD

Spread Christmas joy by serving others in Jesus' name.

- **Have flowers delivered to the front office staff at your local school.**
- **Shovel snow for an elderly neighbor or single parent.**
- **Volunteer to serve a meal at Wheeler Mission.**

