



LifeWay®

Kids



FAMILY ADVENT GUIDE



Merry Christmas from LifeWay Kids! Use these devotions, activities, and connection questions to help your family rest in the love, peace, joy, and hope that only Jesus can bring. He's the reason for this beautiful season. Let's celebrate!



WEEK 1: HOPE

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

"Look, the days are coming"—
this is the Lord's declaration—
"when I will fulfill the good promises
that I have spoken
concerning the house of Israel
and the house of Judah."
— JEREMIAH 33:14

LOOK FOR HOPE

"I hope I get a new bike for Christmas" was heard over and over during Thanksgiving. Tucker had pointed out, circled, even torn out the page from the sales flyer that pictured "his" bike. He placed the picture on the refrigerator for everyone to see (especially his parents). The only thing Tucker hoped for this Christmas was a shiny gold bike!

What are you hoping for this Christmas? God sent us Jesus, The Hope of the world to give us salvation from our sins; the best gift ever. As you begin the Christmas season, look for Hope (Jesus) and ways to share The Hope with others.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: PICTURES OF HOPE

As a family, list or draw pictures of things kids are hoping for this Christmas. Together, decide and circle one or two things for which they are really hoping. Ask how these things could help them share Jesus (The Hope) with others.

Choose one way to share The Hope (Jesus) with a friend. As a family, plan how to carry out that act of sharing.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Who is The Hope of the World?

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2. How can we share Jesus with friends and family?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

November 30 - Isaiah 7:14 • December 1 - Matthew 2:10 • December 2 - Luke 2:12
December 3 - Matthew 1:21 • December 4 - Acts 5:31

WEEK 2: LOVE

DECEMBER 6, 2015

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

— JOHN 3:16

ONE VERSE SAYS ALL

One basic need that we all share as humans is to be loved. By our family. By our friends. How? Unconditionally. What an overwhelming reality, though, to be told in Scripture that you are unconditionally loved by the Creator of the universe!

A second need is to have the assurance of where each of us will spend eternity. And, as only God can do, in this same, small verse we are told that because of God's love, He sent Jesus to die for our sins. By trusting in what He did on the cross, we can believe and have the assurance of being a part of God's forever family!

FAMILY ACTIVITY: MAKE A LIST AND CHECK IT TWICE

As an adult or child, it is always a good idea to make a list of ways that God has shown His love to you. Draw one line down the vertical center of an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. Draw two horizontal lines through the vertical line dividing the page into six boxes. In each box, draw a picture (yes, even you adults!) of one way that God shows His love to you. Pray, thanking God for His unconditional love.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Who loves you more than anyone else?

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2. What did Jesus do to show His and His Father's love for you?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 7 - Luke 1:28 • December 8 - Luke 1:30 • December 9 - Luke 1:31
December 10 - Luke 1:32 • December 11 - John 1:14
December 12 - Matthew 1:22-23

WEEK 3: JOY

DECEMBER 13, 2015

But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today a savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David."
— LUKE 2:10-11

JOYFUL STOMACH

Someone once told me that joy was the feeling of smiling in your tummy. Joy isn't just a smile or something you feel when you hear a funny joke. Joy is a happy feeling that comes from inside of you. People who believe in Jesus experience true joy. Jesus gives joy. Joy is knowing that Jesus loves you and that you can always depend on Him. Jesus has always been and will always be the true Source of joy.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: JOYFUL PANCAKES

One of my favorite meals is when my family gets to eat "breakfast for supper." For supper tonight prepare pancakes in the shape of the letters J, O, and Y. Don't worry, they won't be perfect! As your family enjoys their supper, talk about things that make them happy. Remind them that earthly things might make them happy for a little while, but the joy we receive from Jesus will always last.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What are things that make you happy? What are things that make you joyful?

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2. How do you think the shepherds felt when the angel told them about Jesus' birth?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 14 - Luke 2:1-3 • December 15 - Luke 2:4-5 • December 16 - Luke 2:6-7
December 17 - Romans 15:13 • December 18 - 2 Corinthians 9:15
December 19 - Psalm 29:11

WEEK 4: PEACE

DECEMBER 20, 2015

The Lord gives His people strength—
the Lord blesses His people with
peace.

— PSALM 29:11

JESUS GIVES US PEACE

Peace. That's an interesting word. Do you know what it means? Peace is the feeling of being safe and secure. You may feel a sense of peace when you are sitting in your mom or dad's lap. True peace is trusting God to take care of your needs in any situation. A long time ago, God blessed the world with peace through the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Jesus allows us to have peace in our lives because He is the Savior of all the world. God, thank You for blessing us with Jesus.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: PEACEFUL PLACES

Bring a piece of paper and a pencil to the table for one of your meals as a family today. After you have talked with your kids about any daily things they would like to share, ask them to brainstorm with you about places they think are peaceful. Some ideas might be sitting on a chair at the beach, taking a walk through the woods, or sitting under a blanket while reading a book. Help each of your kids think about places where they feel peaceful. Write each of those ideas down on the sheet of paper. Remind kids that true peace is trusting God to take care of your needs in any situation. Ask your kids the difference between a peaceful place and the peace that God offers. Explain that being in a peaceful place is only a temporary peace. God's peace lasts forever.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the Prince of Peace?

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2. How can we experience peace by trusting God?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 21 - Isaiah 9:6 • December 22 - Luke 2:8
December 23 - Luke 2:9 • December 24 - Luke 2:10

CHRISTMAS DAY: JESUS

DECEMBER 25, 2015

Today a savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!

— LUKE 2:11-14

JESUS IS THE ONLY REASON

Wow! Christmas is so exciting—presents, food, and family. So much to be excited about. Have you ever thought about what Christmas was like 2100 years ago? Probably not, because 2100 years ago, Jesus wasn't born yet. There was no Christmas. Today, remember that we celebrate Christmas because we have a reason to celebrate. We celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Immanuel—God with us! Don't get so caught up in the hustle and bustle that you forget to celebrate Jesus—the only reason for Christmas.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: FOCUS ON JESUS

Reflect on the first Christmas as a family. Sometime today, gather around the fire or under a blanket and read Luke 2:1-20 from your Bible. Take time to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Ask your kids to name reasons why they are thankful for Jesus and the peace that God offers. Explain that being in a peaceful place is only a temporary peace. God's peace lasts forever.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to celebrate Jesus' birth?

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2. What are some ways that your family can focus on the true Reason for Christmas?

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