

Immanuel: God with Us

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30 <i>Creation</i> GENESIS 1-2	1 <i>The Fall</i> GENESIS 3	2 <i>The Flood</i> GENESIS 6-8	3 <i>Call of Abram</i> GENESIS 12:1-9	4 <i>Abraham & Isaac</i> GENESIS 22:1-19	5 <i>Jacob's Dream</i> GENESIS 28:10-22	6 <i>Joseph in Egypt</i> GENESIS 40-41
7 <i>Moses & the Burning Bush</i> EXODUS 3	8 <i>Crossing the Red Sea</i> EXODUS 14	9 <i>Twelve Spies in Canaan</i> NUMBERS 13-14	10 <i>Entering the Promised Land</i> JOSHUA 3-4	11 <i>Ruth & Naomi</i> RUTH 1-4	12 <i>God Calls Samuel</i> 1 SAMUEL 3	13 <i>Saul Becomes King</i> 1 SAMUEL 9-10
14 <i>God Chooses David</i> 1 SAMUEL 16	15 <i>God's Promise to David</i> 2 SAMUEL 7	16 <i>Solomon Builds the Temple</i> 1 KINGS 6-8	17 <i>Jonah</i> JONAH 1-4	18 <i>Israel Exiled</i> 2 KINGS 17	19 <i>King Hezekiah Prays</i> 2 KINGS 18-19	20 <i>King Josiah & the Book of the Law</i> 2 KINGS 22-23
21 <i>God Calls Jeremiah</i> JEREMIAH 1	22 <i>Three Men in the Fiery Furnace</i> DANIEL 3	23 <i>Return from Exile</i> EZRA 1 AND 3	24 <i>Gabriel Visits Mary</i> LUKE 1:26-38	25 <i>Birth of Jesus</i> LUKE 2:1-21	26 <i>Jesus Presented at the Temple</i> LUKE 2:22-38	27 <i>Visit of the Wise Men</i> MATTHEW 2

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The word *Advent* means "coming." It is a penitential season to prepare for and reflect on Christ's coming in past, present, and future.

Christ came in His incarnation as a baby, lowly in a manger.

Christ comes to us in the Word and Sacraments.

Christ will come again in His promised second coming.



Participating in devotions at home keeps you connected to the gifts you received in the Divine Service all week long.

TIPS FOR STARTING A DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRACTICE

- Choose a time each day for daily family devotions.
- Read the daily Bible passage or use a children's Bible.

All of these passages can be found in The Story Bible (CPH)

- Talk about it: Where do you see that God is with the people in this passage?
- Respond with prayer.

Use your own words, the Lord's Prayer, or a prayer from pages 305-318 in the Lutheran Service Book.

- Sing an Advent hymn (LSB 331-357).

LOOKING FOR MORE?

- If you're looking for more structure for your daily devotions, check out pages 294-298 in the *Lutheran Service Book*.

If you don't have a copy at home, ask about borrowing one from your congregation.

- Supplement with an additional Advent devotion, like the ones from Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, or CPH's *Portals of Prayer*.
- Additional free reading plans can be found here:
<https://communication.cph.org/free-bible-reading-plans>

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

- If family devotions are new to you, start small and build on the habit.
- For a visual way to mark the season, consider:

Lighting candles on an Advent wreath, as a reminder that you are preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who is the Light of the World!

If you don't have an Advent wreath at home, you can make one as a family.

Colouring the calendar box or using a sticker to mark the date when you've finished your devotion.

- Repetition is a great learning tool, so come back to the reading throughout the day and talk about it.
- If children are having a hard time sitting still, give them a piece of paper and ask them to draw what they're hearing.
- Give older children a chance to read the passage.
- When praying, folding your hands and bowing your head is both a physical posture of worship and can help curb distractions.
- For younger children, use prayers they hear in church, have them repeat after you, or give them a prompt, e.g. "Thank you God for..." and let them complete the prayer.