

# FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

## WEEK 1 | Prophecy Candle - Waiting with Hope

Advent is a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ as the baby born in Bethlehem at the first Christmas.

As a family, make an Advent Wreath. Use a real or artificial wreath and 5 LED candles. There are 3 purple candles, 1 pink and 1 white. (Tip: If you can't find pink or purple LED candles, cover the white ones with colored paper.) Another option is to let your child make a paper advent wreath. See examples taken from Pinterest below:



As you light the first candle, explain that this candle reminds us that hundreds of years before Jesus was born, people were living under a mean leader who made their lives hard. Special men called prophets offered hope to the people as they wrote in the Bible that Jesus, the Savior of the world would be born. One of those men was Isaiah the prophet. Read what he wrote in Isaiah 7:14.

### Additional Ideas:

Create a countdown to Christmas where you can mark off the days as you anticipate (hope for) the celebration of Jesus' birth. It can be as simple or as elaborate as you like.

Make Jesse Tree Ornaments to trace the hope of God's promise throughout scripture:  
<https://awellpurposedwoman.com/jesse-tree-tradition-free-printable/>

As a way to foster thankfulness and focus on giving to others, create an Advent Blessing Jar with the family: <https://www.thirtyhandmadedays.com/advent-blessing-jar/>

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## WEEK 2 | Bethlehem Candle - An Unlikely Place for a King

Light the Bethlehem Candle as a reminder that God loved us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. The prophets foretold that Jesus would be born in a manger in the small town of Bethlehem. In a special place in your home, set up a nativity. Gather around the nativity and read Luke 2:1-7.

Create a Gingerbread Nativity. Consider inviting friends and family to join you for your Gingerbread Bash! <https://waysidechapel.org/gingerbread-bash/>



### Additional Ideas:

This Christmas, Wayside is partnering with Potter's House in Guatemala to provide school supplies for the Treasures. Challenge your kids to earn money and/or give from their piggy banks to support these families who live and work in the city's trash dump as we remember that we all - big, small, rich, or poor - matter to God.

<https://waysidechapel.org/christmas-outreach/>

Create a crown to place on the top of your Christmas tree to remind you that Jesus is our King. To make your crown, use pipe cleaners, construction paper, or whatever materials you have available.

Spend time as a family talking about things that are bothering you right now. Write them down on sheets of paper. Then spend time praying together. When you are finished, say "Amen, so be it" and crumple up your "troubles" and throw them in the trash (or in the fire if you have a fireplace and it is cold enough to have a fire).



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## WEEK 3 | Angel Candle - Joy on Display

We light the Angel Candle to remind us to take time and celebrate with the angels who proclaimed Christ's birth, singing "Glory to God in the highest."

Read Luke 2: 8-14. Make an angel card to give away:



On white paper, trace and cut out your child's hands.

Cut a white triangle for the angel's gown, and a white circle for the head.

Glue the circle, triangle and hands on a piece of folded, colored paper to make an angel.

Using a marker, draw on a halo, or glue on gold string or tinsel.

Include a message inside the card and give it away.

### Additional Ideas:

For another angel craft, try this fun painting: [https://www.motherhoodonadime.com/kids/12-days-of-christmas-carols-and-crafts\\_13/](https://www.motherhoodonadime.com/kids/12-days-of-christmas-carols-and-crafts_13/)

Create jingle bell sticks. Paint a craft stick red or green. While it is drying, thread jingle bells onto a pipe cleaner. Secure the pipe cleaner with the bells onto your craft stick. Use your jingle bell sticks to sing joyfully about Jesus as the angel choir did.

Add a loop to the star at the top of this "Jesus Ascending into Heaven Craft for Kids" to make an ornament that will remind you Christ has come and He's coming again: [https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible\\_themes\\_easter.html#jesusa](https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_easter.html#jesusa)

Share the joy of Jesus' birth by making a "Handprint Joy Keepsake Craft" to give away: <https://www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2019/12/handprint-joy-keepsake.html>

Color these "Names of Jesus" ornaments and hang them on the tree to remind you who Jesus is and how much He loves you: [https://biblestoryprintables.com/themed-bible-printables/christmas-bible-printables/names-of-jesus-advent-ornaments/?utm\\_source=pinterest&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=social-pug](https://biblestoryprintables.com/themed-bible-printables/christmas-bible-printables/names-of-jesus-advent-ornaments/?utm_source=pinterest&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social-pug)

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## WEEK 4 | Shepherd Candle - God's Unexpected Messengers

We light the Shepherd Candle to honor Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, and to remind us to do as the shepherds did the night that Jesus was born. We are to worship Jesus and spread the news that the Savior of the world has been born.

Enjoy a candy cane while reading Luke 2:15-20. Use a candy cane to tell your child and others about Jesus.



- Turn a candy cane upside down so that it looks like the letter "J". J is for Jesus—the promised Savior.
- The red stripes on the candy cane remind us Jesus' blood was shed for us on the cross.
- The white stripes on the candy cane remind us that our sins were washed away when Jesus took the punishment for our sins on the cross.
- Turn the candy cane right side up so it looks like a shepherd's crook. Explain that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and His sheep hear and follow His voice.
- Share the good news of Jesus and a candy cane with a friend!

### Additional Ideas:

Go caroling in your neighborhood. Knock on doors and when someone answers sing songs that share the joy of Jesus' birth.

Think of someone you know who might be lonely this Christmas and needs to be reminded that Jesus loves them – maybe a single mom or dad or an elderly neighbor. Make a goody bag for them – include whatever you think they would like. Leave the package on their front porch, ring their doorbell, and leave.

Create a candy cane ornament to hang on your tree using beads: <https://athriftymom.com/candy-cane-ornament-great-kid-craft-diy-christmas/> or edible ingredients: <https://www.tipsfromatypicalmomblog.com/2013/12/candy-cane-hearts-edible-christmas.html>

Invite friends and family to a birthday party for Jesus. Make and decorate a birthday cake for Jesus and share the joy of Jesus' birth.