

ADVENT

**THE TRUE LIGHT THAT GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE
WAS COMING INTO THE WORLD. - JOHN 1 9**

WE BELIEVE THAT PRACTICES LIKE THE ADVENT CALENDAR REINFORCE GOD'S TRUTH AND PROVIDE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF WHY CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS. WE ENCOURAGE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO READ THE DAILY SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS TOGETHER EACH DAY. MAY THE LORD HELP US FAITHFULLY LEAD OUR FAMILIES IN WORSHIPPING KING JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.

WHAT IS ADVENT? THE ADVENT CALENDAR

ADVENT, THE SEASON OF WAITING THAT LEADS US TO CHRISTMAS DAY, HAS BEEN CELEBRATED BY CHRISTIANS SINCE THE FIFTH CENTURY. THE WORD ADVENT MEANS "COMING," AND IT IS A TIME TO REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO WAIT FOR CHRIST'S FIRST COMING, AS WE SIMULTANEOUSLY WAIT FOR HIM TO RETURN. ADVENT HELPS US FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON JESUS WITH PEACE, HOPE AND JOYFUL EXPECTATION. FINALLY, THE DAILY PRACTICE REMINDS US TO WELCOME HIM INTO OUR LIVES EACH AND EVERY MOMENT.

ADVENT CALENDARS COUNT TO CHRISTMAS DAY. WHILE CONTEMPORARY VERSIONS OFTEN MARK THE DAYS WITH CANDY OR TINY GIFTS (BRINGING JOY), WE CAN ALSO USE THIS TOOL TO REFLECT ON CHRIST'S COMING WITH PRAYERS AND SCRIPTURE.

THE ADVENT WREATH

MANY FAMILIES CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH WREATHS. BEGINNING ON EACH NEW SUNDAY, AN ADDITIONAL CANDLE IS LIT, CONTINUING THROUGH CHRISTMAS. EACH ELEMENT IS SIGNIFICANT

- EVERGREEN WREATH - GOD HAS NO BEGINNING OR END.
- PURPLE - ROYALTY OF OUR KING
- PINK - THE JOY WITH WHICH WE AWAIT JESUS
- 1ST CANDLE (PURPLE) PROPHECY OR HOPE CANDLE
- 2ND CANDLE (PURPLE) BETHLEHEM OR PREPARATION CANDLE
- 3RD CANDLE (PINK) SHEPHERD OR JOY CANDLE
- 4TH CANDLE (PURPLE) ANGEL OR LOVE CANDLE

WHEN IS ADVENT?

ADVENT BEGINS ABOUT FOUR WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS ON THE SUNDAY CLOSEST TO NOVEMBER 30TH. IT CAN RANGE BETWEEN 22-28 DAYS AND CONCLUDES ON CHRISTMAS DAY. ADVENT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN NEW YEAR, AND IT WAS ORIGINALLY A TIME OF FASTING THAT PREPARED BELIEVERS TO CELEBRATE CHRIST'S BIRTH.

