



REZKIDS FAMILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE

Advent, 2012



THE COLLECTS OF ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation; Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

RezKids Family Devotional Resource
www.churchrez.org/rezkids

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A NOTE FROM AMY

Dearest Resurrection Families,

What a monumental Advent we are having as a church family! The Lord has given us a new home after much prayer, sacrifice, and labor. He is doing great things already and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us as we begin a new year.

With all of the building bustle and Christmas commotion, we need Advent more than ever. Advent is a time to reorient from the temporary to the eternal. From our schedules and desires to the hope of Christ coming as a baby. I love that Advent brings both eagerness and patience. Waiting is not passivity; rather, we are preparing ourselves for Christ's birth and ultimately his return. And of course our children are the ultimate example of waiting in rapt anticipation. The joy they have for Christmas is contagious and I pray your family would look to Christ with an uncontainable delight.

There are so many things to do this December, and I'm sure you are feeling the crunch. Instead of our full Family Resource, we've created a version designed for simple worship. The Advent resource focuses on a liturgy that emphasizes the light of Christ while reading Scripture from the Isaiah and Luke. The family activities are uncomplicated ways to anticipate Christ's birth together. We've also included our favorite Christmas stories for children of all ages.

My prayer is that this resource would assist your family to reflect on Christ this Advent. As you wait for Christ, may his light fill your home.



Hope and joy,

A handwritten signature of Amy Patton in cursive script.

Amy Patton
RezKids Director

FAMILY LITURGY

The following liturgy provides a simple structure to worship this Advent. Have one family member be the leader each time and the rest of the family responds. Scripture passages are given below to insert within the liturgy.

Materials Needed: One large bowl full of beans, rice, salt or sand. One large family candle placed in the center of the bowl. One small bowl and one small candle for each person.

Leader The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Leader *Light the family candle*

Leader Jesus the Light of the world

Family Jesus the Light of the world

Leader The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.

Family All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.

Leader We have all sinned.

Family We have all sinned.

Go around in a circle and each person scoop up some sand and say, "I have sinned."

Leader Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.

Family Jesus, the Light of the world comes to me. (Leader lights each person's candle).

When each candle is lit, sing together. Song suggestions: This Little Light of Mine, We See the Light of Christ, Wait for the Lord, O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Family Thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks be to God. (sung)

Read an Advent Scripture, passages provided below

Leader Thanks be to God for the reading of his Word.

Family Thank you, God. Thank you, God.

Leader Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Family Amen.

**Sing Together:
Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word**

Leader The Lord be with you.

Family And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

Family Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

Leader May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

Family Amen

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

Family Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Choose a passage to read together as a family during the Advent Family Liturgy. All readings are from the New International Version (NIV).

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 53:1-7

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— ³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 1:67-80

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—

⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

Matthew 1:18-24

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Help an Expectant Mother

Do you know of someone who is expecting a baby soon? Maybe it's your mom and family waiting for a new member to join you. Or someone you know in your neighborhood or at church. As a family, help someone as you wait for this new baby. Go to the store and buy some diapers or a special outfit. Maybe the nursery has a project that needs to be done so it can be ready. As you help prepare for the newborn baby, talk about how Mary and Joseph had to wait and prepare for baby Jesus!

Find Baby Jesus

Hide a baby doll, Baby Jesus nativity piece, or have someone pretend to be the baby Jesus. Everyone can pretend to be the Shepherds and Magi looking for the Baby Jesus throughout the house!

Sharing Christmas Cookies

As a family, make cookies your favorite Christmas shapes, like stars or angels. When you are finished baking, put some in a package for your friends and neighbors!

Jesse Tree

Jesse trees tell God's story from creation through Jesus' birth. It reminds us of God's goodness as we wait for Christmas! Get a small tree, branches, or create one with poster board. Then create, find, or buy these ornaments from the list below to put on your tree. You can put them on throughout Advent or all at once. Read the Scripture that goes with each ornament when you put it on your Jesse tree. Isaiah 11:1 gives the origin of Jesse tree.

Apple—Adam and Eve, Genesis 3:1-15

Ark—Noah, Genesis 6

Lamb—Isaac, Genesis 22:1-19

Knife—Abraham, Genesis 22:1-19

Ladder—Jacob, Genesis 28:1-22

Coat—Joseph, Genesis 27:1-4

Burning Bush—Moses, Exodus 2

Harp—David, I Samuel 16:14-23

Crown—Solomon, I Kings 1:22-48

Whale—Jonah, Jonah 1-2

Dove—Elisha, II Kings 5:1-27

Rose—Isaiah, Isaiah 35:1-2

Heart—Ruth, Ruth 1:15-18

Wheel—Ezekiel, Ezekiel 1:15-21

Lion—Daniel, Daniel 6:1-24

Lily—Mary, Luke 1:26-28

Hammer—Joseph, Matthew 1:18-24

Chi Rho (an X with a P through the middle of it)—Jesus, Luke 2:1-20

CHRISTMAS STORIES

These are a few favorite Christmas stories to read with your children this year. They include classics, different culture's stories and beautiful illustrations.

A Certain Small Shepherd by Rebecca Caudill
A Child's Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas
A Christmas Gift for Mama by Lauren Thompson
A Christmas Tapestry by Patricia Polacco
A Cobtown Christmas by Julia Van Nutt
A Cowboy Christmas by Audrey Wood
A Small Miracle by Peter Collington
A Tree for Peter by Kate Seredy
An Orange for Frankie by Patricia Polacco
Back to the Manger by Margaret Philbrick
Christmas Day in the Morning by Pearl S. Buck
Grandfather's Christmas Tree by Keith Strand
Irene Jennie and the Christmas Masquerade by Irene Smalls
Jotham's Journey by Arnold Ytreeide (a trilogy of chapter books)
Letters from Father Christmas by J.R.R. Tolkien
Mary's First Christmas by Walter Wangerin, Jr.
Papa Panov's Special Day by Ruben Saillens (adapted by Leo Tolstoy)
Saint Francis and the Christmas Donkey by Robert Byrd
The Advent Book by Jack & Kathy Stockman
The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski
The Christmas Treasury by Jan Brett
The Dolls' Christmas by Tasha Tudor
The First Christmas by The National Gallery, London
The Lion in the Box by Marguerite de Angeli
The Night of Las Posadas by Tomie dePaola
The Real Santa Claus by Marianna Mayer
The Third Gift by Linda Sue Park
The Tree of the Dancing Goats by Patricia Polacco
Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto
Uncle Vovo's Tree by Patricia Polacco
Young Mary of Nazareth by Marianna Mayer

