

Unwrapping Advent

Weekly Activities

Advent is a time of PROMISE, ANTICIPATION, PREPARATION, INVITATION, AND CELEBRATION. Use the activities below to be reminded of the JOY each of these themes of ADVENT bring to us year after year as we celebrate the coming of Jesus to us and for us at Christmas and every day!

Week 1: PROMISE—The advent season is a very busy time because we are *preparing* for Christmas. There are gifts to buy, trees to decorate, cookies to make, and sights to see. It's very easy to miss the message of Advent altogether. Make a *promise* to your family or friends to make using your **Advent in a Box** a priority this year. Choose a weekly time and place to worship together as you experience the PROMISE, ANTICIPATION, PREPARATION, INVITATION AND CELEBRATION that Jesus brings.

Week 2: ANTICIPATION—On Monday of this week, gather with your family or friends and plan a Christmas outing/activity for the weekend. This could be anything like a drive to look at lights, a visit to Santa, a trip to Cleveland Botanical Gardens for their holiday event, or a night watching a Christmas movie with hot chocolate. Use the enclosed "countdown calendar" to mark off each day leading up to the event. After the event, talk about how the anticipation of the activity added more excitement for the actual event.

Week 3: PREPARATION—Pick a day this week that everyone is able to be a part of *preparing* a meal together. It doesn't have to be dinner—it can be breakfast or lunch. (If you live alone, invite someone over). Include everyone present in the meal preparation—setting the table, cutting up the ingredients, etc. You can even make it more special by playing Christmas music while you cook, using the "good plates" or breaking out the cloth napkins! As you sit around the table together talk about what it means to prepare for something, how it was to prepare this meal together, and how can you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas.

Week 4: INVITATION — Box/Plate/Bag up some Christmas cookies and take them to a neighbor or friend. Include the enclosed sticker with Advent's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service information on it and invite them to worship with you. If you can, offer to pick them up!

CHRISTMAS DAY: CELEBRATION— It's Christmas! Jesus has come! Break out the streamers, balloons, and confetti to decorate for a Birthday Party! Put birthday candles in your dessert (or in your breakfast cinnamon rolls) and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. Even if the extra decorations aren't for you, be sure to say a special prayer before opening your presents to thank Jesus for coming to earth to be with us, forgive us, and give us a reason to celebrate today and every day. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

If you took pictures of any of your Advent activities this year we encourage you to post them to Advent's facebook page or share them with us by text or email. You can send them to Dana at livingoutfaith@live.com or 440-554-7919.