

Advent

For Kids

Today in the Word has created a family-friendly guide that will help you and your children (or grandchildren) study God's Word together. We hope these questions and activities will help kids understand, remember, and apply lessons throughout the Advent season. Each week, celebrate the Lord's incarnation by focusing on His hope, love, joy, and peace.

This guide can be used with *Today in the Word's* December 2020 issue, Living in Hope. You can read along at todayintheword.org or download the *Today in the Word* app (todayintheword.org/mobile).



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JESUS

Gives Us Hope



Text

Read Genesis 3



Questions

What did Adam and Eve do that made God very sad?

What happened after they disobeyed?

For whom was everyone in the Old Testament hoping?

How does Jesus give us hope?



Activity: Advent Calendar

Supplies:

- 24 - 4 oz. paper cups
- Glue
- White foam board
- Tissue paper
- Rubber bands
- Permanent marker
- Small toys/Candy/or handwritten notes listing special rewards (make hot cocoa, read a Christmas story, stay up a half-hour late)

Celebrating advent can teach your children about hope and patience. This is a two-part activity. The first part parents can do on their own or have their children help. **Part One:** Create an advent calendar by gluing 24 small paper cups onto a large piece of cardboard (you could also use a muffin tin). After the cups have dried, place a small toy or candy in each cup. Cut tissue paper circles about 1 inch wider than the cup rim. Cover each cup with tissue paper and secure it with a rubber band. Number each tissue/paper cup from 1 to 24 so your children can open one each day. **Part Two:** Have your children open one cup each day. If you have several children, let them take turns. But before you do, ask your children what they are hoping is inside. Then remind them that the world had to wait a really, really long time before they could receive the gift of the Lord Jesus.



JESUS

Showed God's Love



Text

Read John 3:16–21



Questions

How did God decide to show His love to the world?

What does God give us when we believe in Jesus?

What can we give to God in return?

What does God want us to give to others?



Activity: Giving a Gift of Love

Supplies:

- Ingredients to make cookies
- Packaging for cookies
- Paper and colored pencils

Have the children write John 3:16 in their own words (we summed it up like this: God loved; God gave; when we believe, we receive). Then, have a cookie-making night. Help your child or children make a batch of cookies. Wrap some of the cookies in a fun and unique way. You can place them in a shoe box, plastic to-go container, or mason jar. If you have time, decorate the container. Add a special Christmas greeting with your summary of John 3:16 and deliver the cookies to a friend or neighbor.



JESUS

Brought Great Joy



Text

Read John 2:8–20



Questions

Why do you think the shepherds were so afraid?

What was the good news that angels gave to the shepherds?

Why did seeing the baby Jesus make the shepherds so happy?

Why does Jesus make you joyful?



Activity: Joy to the World

Supplies:

- Poster board or large paper cup
- Markers and crayons

Today we're going to make some joyful noise! Our project is to make a joy-filled trumpet! Have your children roll a piece of poster board into a funnel, securing it, or cut out the bottom of a paper cup. On the side of the poster board or cup, have them write the things that bring them joy. As they go around the house, they can use their joyful trumpet to shout out what brings them joy and sing some of their favorite Christmas songs, specifically "Joy to the World."



JESUS

Brings Us Peace



Text

Read Isaiah 9:6–7



Questions

What are some of the names Isaiah gave the coming Messiah?

What does “peace” mean?

Why do people need someone who brings peace?

When you feel scared or worried, what makes you feel better?



Activity: A “Peaceful” Night

Supplies:

- Pizza
- Your car (or feet)
- Reese’s Pieces

Tell your kids that tonight is all about peace. Let them spell it out loud: P-E-A-C-E. First, have everyone enjoy a piece of something for dinner (maybe pizza!). Then, walk or drive around your neighborhood looking at the Christmas lights. As you go, every time your child sees a house that has a nativity scene, give them a Reese’s Pieces candy (or a piece of something else they like to eat). Choose a different nativity character each time, and ask, “What do you think that character felt worried or fearful about?” Ask them if they have ever felt that way too? This is a great time to share with your children why Jesus is the Prince of Peace and how He can help them in their times of need.

