



Lifeway[®] Kids

FAMILY ADVENT GUIDE

Merry Christmas! This guide is designed to help you point your family toward the Savior throughout this holiday season. Use these devotions, activities, and discussion questions as you celebrate the birth of Christ with your kids.



WEEK 1: HOPE

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

"Look, the days are coming"—
this is the Lord's declaration—
"when I will fulfill the good promises
that I have spoken
concerning the house of Israel
and the house of Judah."
— JEREMIAH 33:14

HOPE FOR A BABY

Mark and Carol had been married for more than 10 years. They loved each other and had a great life. They were active in their church, but they still felt like something was missing. They wanted a child. They were hoping and praying for a child. I'll never forget the day Carol told me that she and Mark were expecting a baby. Months later, on the day she was born, I tearfully held my friends' baby for the first time. Her name is Hope. Mark and Carol knew God would give them a baby, and they never lost hope. The prophets of the Old Testament told the people they could hope for a Savior. Today, we know we have hope, because we have Jesus!

FAMILY ACTIVITY: HOPE ORNAMENT

Mix up a super easy-to-make batch of salt dough. All you need is one cup of salt, one cup of plain flour, and about one-half cup of water. Add water bit-by-bit to the dry ingredients until you get a smooth consistency. Knead into a dough (add a little more flour if it is sticky). Shape out the letters "HOPE" or write the word "HOPE" into a flat piece of dough. Bake at 210°F for two hours. Paint and place on your Christmas tree as a reminder of the hope we have in Jesus!

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some things you are hoping for this Christmas?

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2. How can we, as a family, share the hope of Jesus this Christmas?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

NOVEMBER 28 - ISAIAH 7:14 • NOVEMBER 29 - MATTHEW 2:10 • NOVEMBER 30 - LUKE 2:12
DECEMBER 1 - MATTHEW 1:21 • DECEMBER 2 - ACTS 5:31
DECEMBER 3 - LUKE 1:26-27



WEEK 2: LOVE

DECEMBER 4, 2016

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.
— JOHN 3:16

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

When you think of the word “love,” what do you think of? Maybe you love a family member, a friend, or your pet. Maybe you love to do something like play a sport or go on a vacation. We get to experience all types of love each day; but we get to experience the greatest love of all through the story of Jesus.

In John 3:16, we learn that God showed us this great love by sending Jesus to die on the cross and forgive us of our sins. Through a relationship with Jesus, we can have eternal life and be a part of God’s family forever! The Creator of the Universe loved you so much that He provided a way for you to be with Him forever. That is the GREATEST love!

FAMILY ACTIVITY: SPREAD THE LOVE

As a family, take a sheet of construction paper and decorate a card with John 3:16 written somewhere on it. Feel free to draw a picture to illustrate the verse as well. Purchase a few candy canes or other Christmas goodies and tape to the inside of the card. Brainstorm a list of people with whom you can share the love of Jesus. Maybe you are thinking of someone at school, a family member, or the cashier at the grocery store. This week, find the person you thought of and deliver the completed card.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is the love that God showed us through Jesus so important?

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2. What are some ways that we can tell others about Jesus this week?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 5 - Luke 1:28 • December 6 - Luke 1:30 • December 7 - Luke 1:31
December 8 - Luke 1:32 • December 9 - John 1:14
December 10 - Matthew 1:22-23



WEEK 3: JOY

DECEMBER 11, 2016

But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today a savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David."
— LUKE 2:10-11

TRUE JOY

Have you ever had a toy or a friend that made you really happy? Your toy is fun when you're playing with it, and your friend brings you a smile when you're together, but what happens when you don't have that toy or friend?

Happiness goes away, but today's verse reminds us of a gift God gave us that brings more than happiness! This gift is the joy of Jesus Christ. Joy is greater than happiness and doesn't leave us. No matter what happens, the joy we have in Christ always stays.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: JUMP FOR JOY

As a family, make a list of the things that make you happy. Get up together and jump one time for each item on your list. Step back, and take the biggest leap for Jesus, who came as good news to the shepherds and brought joy to the world. Pray and thank God for these things, especially for the One who brings more than happiness: Jesus is our true source of joy!

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What's the difference between happiness and joy?

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2. How can we, as a family, show the joy we have in Jesus to others this Christmas season?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 12 - Luke 2:1-3 • December 13 - Luke 2:4-5 • December 14 - Luke 2:6-7
December 15 - Romans 15:13 • December 16 - 2 Corinthians 9:15
December 17 - Psalm 29:11



WEEK 4: PEACE

DECEMBER 18, 2016

The Lord gives His people strength; the Lord blesses His people with peace.

— PSALM 29:11

JESUS BRINGS TRUE PEACE

What do you think of when you hear the word “peace”? Being quiet. Calmness. Freedom. Maybe you feel peace when you’re getting along with others, when you’re going to sleep, or when you’re safe. These all describe feeling peace around us. God sent Jesus, the Savior of the world, for us to have true peace inside us. Another name for Jesus is Prince of Peace. We can have true peace when we trust Jesus to take care of us. Jesus loves us. He wants us to have true peace.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: PEACEFUL TIMES

Create a peaceful environment for your family such as sitting together looking at stars outside, turning off electronics, or being in a quiet room. Explain why you feel peace around you. Ask each family member to draw a picture when he or she feels true peace. Then, draw an example when he or she doesn’t have true peace. Discuss ways we can remember to trust Jesus in all situations. Remind your family Jesus gives true peace inside us.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How can you remember Jesus gives us true peace?

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2. What are ways you can tell others how to have peace?

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DAILY READINGS FOR THE FAMILY

December 19 - Isaiah 9:6 • December 20 - Isaiah 9:7 • December 21 - Luke 2:7
December 22 - Luke 2:8 • December 23 - Luke 2:9
December 24 - Luke 2:10



CHRISTMAS DAY: JESUS

DECEMBER 25, 2016

"Today a savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!

— LUKE 2:11-14

LIKE NO OTHER

You may have been born a long time ago. Or you may have been born just a few years ago. But every single person on the planet had to be born.

Most births are pretty much alike. But one—just one—was different from every other birth before or after: the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

Jesus' birth was like no other. Only His birth was announced by angels. Only His birth was a gift of love from God for all the world. Only His birth promised to save people—all people for all time—from their sins.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: MAKE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Parents, your child's birth was certainly special! Tell your child what that day was like, what happened, and how you felt. Use art materials and work together to make a birth certificate for your child. Include some of facts you shared. Invite your child to add a picture of you going to the hospital. Talk about ways your child's birth was similar and different to Jesus' birth. Thank God for your child's birth. Thank Him for the birth of Jesus.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think God allowed His Son to be born in a small town, possibly in a stable, and placed in a manger (a feeding trough)?

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2. Why was Jesus born?

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