



advent

light in the darkness

a daily journey for advent

Our theme for Advent this year is *light in the darkness*. The word “advent” means “coming.” For centuries, followers of Jesus have set aside the twenty-five days leading up to Christmas as a time to remember Jesus’ coming and all that he brings. He is the light that shines in the darkness. He breaks through in our darkest nights. And he brings with him real hope, joy, love and peace.

Join us as we remember and celebrate the fullness of all that God brings during advent. This guide will help you follow along and engage with God personally as we celebrate together as a church. Each day you will find **(1)** Scripture, **(2)** a short reading from John Piper’s book, *The Dawning of Indestructible Joy*, **(3)** a reflection question, and **(4)** a prayer prompt. You can download a free PDF copy of *The Dawning of Indestructible Joy* at theheightsdenver.com/dawning.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We encourage you to not only do this on your own, but with others. Some of you may want to journey through this together with a spouse, friend or roommate. Others may choose to interact with different people depending on how God prompts you. We have written the reflection questions so that you can share what God reveals to you with others, and the prayer prompts so that you can pray alone or with someone else.

Let’s enter into God’s presence together! We pray God uses this guide to bring hope, joy, love and peace to you and those around you.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Each day’s reading has a short scripture passage and reflection questions. Read the passage, or have your big kids read it to you, then discuss and pray through it as a family. These short verses are a great way to incorporate Bible reading and prayer into your family’s day, as well as help you see it with a bit more wonder!

Want to go a step further? Make a ‘Countdown to Christmas’ paper chain, and take off the day’s chain after reading! Or help your kids reflect on the passage and their prayers by drawing it out. Make a big collage of all your advent drawings somewhere special!

DECEMBER 1

Scripture: Luke 19:10

Reading: *The Search-and-Save Mission*

Reflect: How has Jesus been on a search-and-save mission for you?

Pray: For Jesus' seek-and-save mission in Puerto Rico through the ministry of the church plant *Iglesia Gracia Redentora* and Pastor Xavier Torrado

DECEMBER 2

Scripture: John 5:44

Reading: *Prepare Your Heart for Christ*

Reflect: How does Christ want to satisfy your longing for consolation beyond what the world can give?

Pray: For someone you know who needs consolation

DECEMBER 3

Scripture: Hebrews 13:20-21

Reading: *Draw Near to the Savior*

Reflect: What does it mean to know that Jesus intercedes for you so that you can draw near?

Pray: For someone you know who needs strength

DECEMBER 4

Scripture: Mark 10:45

Reading: *What Advent is All About*

Reflect: How does Jesus want you to receive help from him?

Pray: For someone you know who needs help

DECEMBER 5

Scripture: 1 John 3:5, 8

Reading: *Why Christmas Happened*

Reflect: What sin has Jesus come to take away in your life?

Pray: For someone you know who needs freedom from sin

DECEMBER 6

Scripture: John 12:27-28

Reading: *God's Passion for God at Christmas*

Reflect: How do you want to see God glorified today?

Pray: For God's glory in your community

DECEMBER 7

Scripture: Acts 3:22-26

Reading: *He Comes to Bless Us*

Reflect: How has God blessed you?

Pray: For people in Boulder, CO to be blessed through the ministry of Pinewood Church

DECEMBER 8

Scripture: Acts 3:22-26

Reading: *God Can Be Trusted*

Reflect: What does it mean to you to know that God is truthful and keeps his promises?

Pray: For someone who needs to hear that God is trustworthy and faithful



DECEMBER 9

Scripture: John 1:51

Reading: *Why the Son of Man?*

Reflect: How does the Son of Man want to have dominion over your life?

Pray: For someone at your workplace

DECEMBER 10

Scripture: 1 John 3:8

Reading: *What Christmas Came to Destroy*

Reflect: How is God's message hope to you right now?

Pray: For someone you know who needs hope

DECEMBER 11

Scripture: John 3:16

Reading: *The Celebration of God's Love*

Reflect: How is God's sacrificial love more than you could have imagined?

Pray: For someone who needs God's love

DECEMBER 12

Scripture: John 1:1

Reading: *The Glory of the Word Made Flesh*

Reflect: What does it mean to be reminded that God wants to communicate with you?

Pray: For people in another country

DECEMBER 13

Scripture: Acts 3:24

Reading: *Christmas Cut History in Half*

Reflect: How do you long to see Jesus move in these last days?

Pray: For the leaders in your life

DECEMBER 14

Scripture: Romans 15:8-9

Reading: *The Mercy He Promises*

Reflect: How are you grateful for God's mercy today?

Pray: For those who have yet to hear of God's mercy in London, England, and the ministry of Redeemer Church

DECEMBER 15

Scripture: Matthew 2:10

Reading: *Our Trust Treasure*

Reflect: What are gifts that others have ascribed to you that you could ascribe to Christ?

Pray: For a family member you'll get to see at Christmas

DECEMBER 16

Scripture: Mark 10:45

Reading: *Freed to Be Part of God's Family*

Reflect: What does it mean to you to be part of God's family?

Pray: For your parents and siblings



DECEMBER 17

Scripture: Mark 10:44

Reading: *He Came to Serve*

Reflect: How do you need Jesus to help you follow him today?

Pray: For orphans and foster children in your community

DECEMBER 18

Scripture: Romans 3:25-26

Reading: *Graciously and Tenderly Frustrating*

Reflect: How do you long for rest that can only be found in Jesus?

Pray: For someone who will be missing a loved one this Christmas

DECEMBER 19

Scripture: Acts 17:24-25

Reading: *The Gift You Cannot Buy*

Reflect: How does God want you to trust Him?

Pray: For someone in the church

DECEMBER 20

Scripture: Romans 5:11

Reading: *Receive His Reconciliation*

Reflect: How does Jesus want you to receive reconciliation?

Pray: For someone who needs reconciliation

DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS

Scripture: John 6:51

Reading: *Grace: The Dominant Note of Christmas*

Reflect: How are you grateful for God's grace this year?

Pray: Praise God for His great gift of salvation in Jesus Christ!

DECEMBER 21

Scripture: Matthew 16:15-17

Reading: *Get Your Eyes Ready for Christmas*

Reflect: How do you want God to give you new eyes?

Pray: For Tonia serving in the Middle East, that she would have eyes to see how much God loves and cares for her

DECEMBER 22

Scripture: Hebrews 8:4-10

Reading: *Something Worth Singing About*

Reflect: How is God giving you joy for his will?

Pray: For someone who is lonely

DECEMBER 23

Scripture: Micah 5:4-5

Reading: *Our Deepest Need at Christmas*

Reflect: How are you grateful for God's peace?

Pray: For the leaders of our nation

DECEMBER 24

Scripture: Micah 5:2-4

Reading: *Enjoy All the Promises of God*

Reflect: How are you grateful for God's promises?

Pray: For friends and family who live far away

Merry
Christmas!

