



# 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](http://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 is Jesus inviting you to move into the lives of those around you?

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

## DECEMBER 2

**Scripture:** John 5:44

**Reading:** *Prepare Your Heart for Christ*

**Reflect:** Where do you need relief that Jesus wants to be your consolation?

**Pray:** For someone you know who needs Jesus' consolation

## DECEMBER 3

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13:20-21

**Reading:** *Draw Near to the Savior*

**Reflect:** Where does God want you to draw near and be equipped to follow him?

**Pray:** For someone you know who needs strength

## DECEMBER 4

**Scripture:** Mark 10:45

**Reading:** *What Advent is All About*

**Reflect:** What does it mean to you today to be reminded that Jesus came for you? How does he want you to trust him?

**Pray:** For someone you know who needs help

## DECEMBER 5

**Scripture:** 1 John 3:5, 8

**Reading:** *Why Christmas Happened*

**Reflect:** What sin does Jesus want to take away in your life? Claim Jesus' victory over it.

**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:** Praise God for his glory today.

**Pray:** For people to be blessed in Puerto Rico through the ministry of our church plant *Iglesia Gracia Redentora*

## DECEMBER 7

**Scripture:** Acts 3:22-26

**Reading:** *He Comes to Bless Us*

**Reflect:** How has God blessed you recently?

**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 promises has God made where he wants to remind you that you can trust him?

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



## **DECEMBER 9**

**Scripture:** John 1:51

**Reading:** *Why the Son of Man?*

**Reflect:** That Jesus was both King and Son who died for us

**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 that what is truly good can never be lost and what is bad can change?

**Pray:** For someone you know who needs that kind of hope

## **DECEMBER 11**

**Scripture:** John 3:16

**Reading:** *The Celebration of God's Love*

**Reflect:** On God's costly but free love

**Pray:** For someone who needs love

## **DECEMBER 12**

**Scripture:** John 1:1

**Reading:** *The Glory of the Word Made Flesh*

**Reflect:** That God became man to communicate with you

**Pray:** For people in another country that may not have heard of Jesus

## **DECEMBER 13**

**Scripture:** Acts 3:24

**Reading:** *Christmas Cut History in Half*

**Reflect:** What are some things in your life God has done that you can look back on today that give you hope for the future?

**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 gifts has God given you that you are thankful for?

**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:** That God has made you part of his family

**Pray:** For your parents and siblings



## **DECEMBER 17**

**Scripture:** Mark 10:44

**Reading:** *He Came to Serve*

**Reflect:** That Jesus came to serve you. 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 does God want you to let go of ways you are trying to earn righteousness and find it in him?

**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 rest in what he's given you?

**Pray:** For someone in the church

## **DECEMBER 20**

**Scripture:** Romans 5:11

**Reading:** *Receive His Reconciliation*

**Reflect:** What are some things that have stood between you and God in the past that he has reconciled?

**Pray:** For someone who needs reconciliation

## **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:** On the ways that Jesus is beautiful to you

**Pray:** For someone who is lonely

## **DECEMBER 23**

**Scripture:** Micah 5:4-5

**Reading:** *Our Deepest Need at Christmas*

**Reflect:** That you have peace with God

**Pray:** For the leaders of our nation

## **DECEMBER 24**

**Scripture:** Micah 5:2-4

**Reading:** *Enjoy All the Promises of God*

**Reflect:** What is a promise of God you are grateful for today?

**Pray:** For friends and family who live far away

## **DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS**

**Scripture:** John 6:51

**Reading:** *Grace: The Dominant Note of Christmas*

**Reflect:** How have you seen God's grace this year?

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

*Merry  
Christmas!*

