

CREEK KIDS

Advent Family Devotional

Parents,

We are excited to offer this booklet to help you teach Christ and His birth this Christmas. If you have never led your family in worship, this is a great place to start. We have curated five devotionals for: preschool, elementary, or special needs. Before beginning each devotional, read through the passages, gather your materials, and pray.

Make this holiday memorable by starting a new Advent tradition and remembering why Jesus was born.

Pastor Mike Dowd

Creek Kids Pastor

Advent Devotional Schedule

1st Sunday - Hope (Purple Candle)

2nd Sunday - Peace (Purple Candle)

3rd Sunday - Joy (Pink Candle)

Christmas Eve - Love (Purple Candle)

Christmas Day - Christ (White Candle)



1ST SUNDAY

Hope

Materials Needed:

- One Purple Taper Advent Candle

Activity:

1. Marshmallow Snowman Family Craft & Snack

Items Needed:

- Marshmallows
- Brown or black icing, small tube with fine point
- White icing, small tube with fine point
- Long very thin strips of red licorice
- Red gum drops
- Tooth picks
- Pretzels, M&M's, candies, etc. for embellishments (optional)

Instructions:

1. Give each child three marshmallows (two to make their snowman and one to eat).
2. With the dark icing, make a face on one marshmallow which will be the head of the snowman, and then make a row of buttons on the other which will be the body of the snowman.
3. Attach a gum drop to the snowman's head with white icing to make a hat.
4. Attach the head and body of the snowman with white icing.
5. Have toothpicks available in case the icing slips.
6. Tie a strip of red licorice around the snowman's neck to make a scarf.

Activity:

2. Family Appreciation Activity

Items Needed:

- A picture of your family if young children OR
- Plain paper
- Markers or crayons

Instructions:

1. Give child drawing supplies and have them draw their family.
2. Above or below each of their family members, have them write at least two words describing the good qualities of that family member.
3. If the child is toddler/preschool age, have them point to each family member in the picture and say one or two kind words about each person.

Make the marshmallow snowman family together before you read the devotion. Talk about your family picture. Enjoy the extra marshmallow while your family reads the devotion together.

Say:

We are all part of Jesus' family. No matter what we do, where we go, if we make a mistake, or if we listen well, Jesus will always welcome us to His family. What's your favorite part of our family? What do you enjoy doing together as a family? Jesus says that being part of his family—believing in God and doing what God wants us to—is even more important than the family that we live with. Being in Jesus' family means we have a really big family!

For those of us that are part of Jesus' family, we have HOPE. Biblically, hope means a strong and confident expectation. God's promises are the reason for hope. The hope we have by only trusting in Jesus means that we will spend forever with God in His family.

LIGHT ONE PURPLE CANDLE AS A FAMILY

Read Matthew 12:46-50

Say:

Who created the family? Whose idea was it for there to be moms, dads, kids, brothers, and sisters? God invented the family. He created the family so that our parents could take care of us and love us so that we could learn from and be friends with our brothers and sisters. God likes us all to be in families that love and help us. Our families are not the only family we have.

Read Hebrews 2:11

Say:

Being part of Jesus' family means that Jesus is not ashamed of us. We are connected to Him and are members of the same family. What is God's will? To believe in the Savior He sent and to live our lives to glorify Him. Jesus' work means our sins are gone. Jesus came to conquer sin and bring us to be with Him. He rejoices that we are His brothers and sisters in Christ! As Christians and brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus gave us hope, and we can live each day by placing our hope in Him.

Pray together as a family:

Pray that your children will experience hope in God, that they will trust Him and know that He will do what he says He will do. With hope in God, we will all spend forever in His family.

SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:

The Promise of Christmas:
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
with hand motions





2ND SUNDAY

Peace

Materials Needed:

- Two Purple Taper Advent Candles

Activity:

3D picture of the Shepherds and Angels (see page 9)

Items Needed:

- Piece of black construction paper per person
- White paper
- Cotton balls
- Star stickers or a yellow paint pen or chalk
- White paint pen or chalk
- Copy of the shepherds and angels below per person or chalk
- Glue

Instructions:

1. Give everyone a sheet of black construction paper (or do one as a family).
2. Cut out, color, and glue the shepherds to the left corner
3. Glue a couple cotton balls near the shepherds.
4. Make the cotton balls into sheep by using your paint pen or chalk to draw a head and legs.
5. Cut out, color and glue the angels in the top right corner (remember there were several).
6. Put star stickers in the sky and put several as a cluster to make it look like one bigger and brighter star (if you don't have star stickers you can draw them with a yellow paint pen or chalk).
7. Cut out some white squares and create a little town of Bethlehem under the star.

LIGHT TWO PURPLE CANDLES AS A FAMILY

Say:

Do you remember what we learned the first candle represents? That's right! Hope!! This week the candle represents Peace. Let's sing and listen for the word peace in these songs.

**Sing or Listen to "Silent Night" and/or
"Little Town of Bethlehem"**
(see the next page for words)

Say:

"Silent Night" talks about a heavenly peace that Jesus was able to rest in. "Little Town of Bethlehem" talks about the peace He brought to men. Because He came to earth to be born and then die for our sins believers are able to have peace in him. Let's read in the prophets about who would come.

Read Isaiah 9:6

Say:

They were looking for the Prince of Peace. For years God's people had been searching for the one that would come to bring peace and show us the way back to God. After Adam and Eve sinned, man was separated from God. It took Jesus coming to change that. After Mary heard Jesus was going to be born, she visited her relative, Elizabeth. When Mary went to Elizabeth's house, even Elizabeth's baby in the womb was excited because the Holy Spirit was letting them know the Prince of Peace, the Savior of the world was coming. The next people the Bible says heard about Jesus coming was the shepherds. Let's read of the night the shepherds heard about this peace.

Read Luke 2:8-14

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, and all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace



O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God our King
And peace to men on earth

Say:

The angels told the shepherds that the Savior of the world was born that night! Because Jesus came there could be peace again! God had sent His son so that we would have a way back to God. Believers no longer needed to worry about how to glorify God. Because of Jesus, they knew they glorified God by worshiping and trusting Him as their Savior.

Pray together as a family**Say:**

It was fun to read and sing about the shepherds today! This part of the Christmas story reminds us that we can have peace through Jesus!

SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:

Song: Silent Night
by Josh Groban

**SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:**

Song: Little Town of Bethlehem
by Kids Choir



 **Color and
Cut Out**





3RD SUNDAY

Joy

Materials Needed:

- Two Purple and One Pink Taper Advent Candles

Activity:

1. Jam Thumbprint Cookies

Items Needed:

- 1 cup unsalted butter softened
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 ½ cups all purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup jam
- Powdered sugar for dusting

As a family, you can make the cookies prior to starting the devotion and enjoy them while you are reading the devotion together.

Instructions:

1. Place the softened butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar in a large bowl. Mix with a mixer until light and fluffy.
2. Add the egg and vanilla extract, then mix until combined.
3. Add in the dry ingredients. Mix until well blended.
4. Place the dough on a large piece of plastic wrap and form into a ball. Cover the dough completely with the plastic wrap then refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
5. Remove the cookie dough from the refrigerator about 10 minutes before you plan to use it.

6. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Roll the dough into 1 inch balls. Place the balls of dough 3 inches apart on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Use your thumb to make an indentation in the middle of each cookie. Make sure not to crack the cookie dough when you are making your thumbprint. Fill each cookie with ½ teaspoon of jam.
7. Place the baking sheet of cookies in the freezer. Chill for 10-15 minutes or until cookies are firm.
8. Remove cookies from the freezer and bake for 10-11 minutes or until light golden brown around the edges. Let cookies cool for 5 minutes and then transfer to a rack to cool completely. Dust with powdered sugar.

Activity:

2. Cinnamon Applesauce Ornaments

Items Needed:

1 cup cinnamon and 1 cup apple sauce

Instructions:

1. Measure 1 cup of cinnamon into a bowl. Measure 1 cup of applesauce and add all but a few tablespoons of it to the cinnamon. Stir with a spoon until combined. The dough will be fairly wet, but not sticky. As needed, adjust the consistency with the remaining applesauce or more cinnamon.
2. Knead the dough before rolling.
3. Roll out the dough to ¼ inch thickness. If the dough is too wet or sticky, you can roll it out between two sheets of parchment paper.
4. Use cookie cutters to cut shapes from the dough and punch holes with a straw or wooden toothpick. Place ornaments on a parchment lined baking sheet.
5. TO BAKE: Bake ornaments at 200 degrees for about 1 hour or until dry, flipping halfway through.
6. TO AIR DRY: Arrange ornaments on a baking sheet and flip over after they have dried overnight. Within 24-36 hours they should be completely dry.

Say:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! The good news of Jesus' birth brings us joy. We can share this joy with everyone around us.

**LIGHT TWO PURPLE CANDLES AND
THE ONE PINK CANDLE AS A FAMILY****Read Luke 2:9-11****Say:**

God can give us more joy than anything in the whole world. The joy that God gives us does not depend on our family or our friends or the gifts we receive or any other thing. God gives us the gift of joy that no one can take away. No matter what happens, we can experience true and lasting joy that only comes from God.

Read Philippians 4:4**Say:**

Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that God gave us that first Christmas when He gave us the greatest gift ever given. That gift is Our Savior, King Jesus. As we think about the good news of Jesus' birth this Christmas, we can be filled with so much joy. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Pray together as a family

Consider writing encouraging notes to pass out with the cookies or ornaments you made as a family to friends or neighbors around you.

SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:

Song: Joy To The World
by Jeremy Camp





CHRISTMAS EVE Love

Materials Needed:

- Three Purple and One Pink Taper Advent Candles

Activity:

Craft a manger

Items Needed:

- Popsicle sticks
- Glue (a glue gun or strong craft glue works the best)
- Brown paint if you want to paint your Popsicle sticks
- Small star sticker or wooden star or even cut some from paper

Instructions:

1. Paint your Popsicle sticks if that is what you are using. Let them dry.
2. Lay your sticks out - 2 on the left and 2 on the right and one on the bottom.
3. Glue your 2 sticks on each side to the base stick on the bottom.
4. Take 2 more sticks and glue them together into a triangle.
5. When dry, attach this to the top of your manger with glue to make the roof.
6. Glue a star on the top.
7. You can use cinnamon sticks as well to do this. They smell wonderful and you will not have to paint. So maybe you can make several as a family and take some to your neighbors and invite them to one of the Christmas Eve Services!
8. Use a piece of ribbon or string and make a loop to glue on top.
9. Hang your ornament and remember that a little over 2,000 years ago, God came as a baby to save us from our sins.

Say:

Tonight is Christmas Eve. We have waited so long and are finally at the birth of Jesus.

**LIGHT THREE PURPLE CANDLES AND
THE ONE PINK CANDLE AS A FAMILY****Read Matthew 1:18-25****Say:**

Listen carefully as we are going to discuss some questions. After you read, ask the following questions and discuss.

- Do you have any heroes?
- How are they like Jesus?
- How are they different?
- Why is Jesus better?
- Why do you think God chose to have Jesus, the powerful Savior of the world, come as a helpless baby?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be The Wonderful Counselor? Mighty God? Everlasting Father? Prince of Peace?

Say:

Now we are going to sing “Silent Night” together and pray for all those coming to the Christmas Eve Services that they would hear and believe The Gospel through the birth of Jesus!

Pray together as a family

Lord, thank you so much for sending Jesus to us. Thank you that Jesus was all God and all man so that He could live a perfect life for us and be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. We pray for all those coming to the Christmas Eve services at Richland Creek and all over the world, that they would hear and believe The Gospel. Help us to invite our neighbors to church. Help us to remember your birth tonight and tomorrow and every day of the year! We love you Lord Jesus.

Say:

Now we are going to watch and listen to a few songs to end our time together. Remember that Jesus is the greatest gift we have been given as we watch these together!

If you made extra mangers, give them to your neighbors or friends, invite them to church, and wish them Merry Christmas. You can do this by wrapping it and attaching an invite card to our church services.

SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:

Gospel Project: The Birth of Jesus from the Book of Luke.



SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:

Christmas Lesson and Song from Luke 2:1-7



SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:

Song: Silent Night
by Chris Tomlin





CHRISTMAS DAY

Christ

Materials needed:

- Three Purple and One Pink Taper Advent Candles
- One White Pillar Candle

Activity:

1. Christmas Cookies

Items Needed:

- 1 cup unsalted butter (softened)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 3 cups flour
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- ¾ tsp salt

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Beat butter and sugar in a large bowl until creamy (1 minute on speed 5).
3. Add egg and vanilla, beat until completely combined.
4. Add flour, baking powder, and salt.
5. Start mixing slowly, then beat until the flour is incorporated – it will be clumpy.
6. Dust work surface with flour, scrape dough out of bowl. Pat together then cut in half, then shape into 2 discs.
7. Roll out to 1/8 inch (for thinner, crispier cookies) or 1/4 inch (for thicker, softer cookies), sprinkling with flour under and over the dough so it doesn't stick.

8. Use cookie cutters to press out shapes and use a knife or spatula to transfer shapes to prepared baking sheets. (Keep dough that doesn't fit in the oven in the fridge).
9. Bake for 10 minutes, until the surface is pale golden and the edges are just beginning to turn light golden.
10. Allow cookies to cool completely on trays (they will finish cooking on the trays).

Activity:

2. Stove Top Potpourri

Items Needed:

- 1 Apple, quartered
- 1 Orange, sliced or quartered
- 10-15 whole cloves
- Fresh Rosemary
- 2 cinnamon sticks

Instructions:

Place all ingredients in a saucepan with 4-6 cups of water and bring to a simmer over low heat (do not boil). Let simmer for as long as you like, refilling water as needed.

As a family, either make the cookies or potpourri prior to starting the devotion. If choosing cookies, have your children eat while reading the devotion.

Say:

Today was so much fun. I loved watching you open and play with each present. That's one of my favorite parts of Christmas! What was your favorite part of today? As we finish our day it is important to remember why this day is so special.

LIGHT THREE PURPLE CANDLES AND THE ONE PINK CANDLE AS A FAMILY

Read Micah 5:2

Say:

Micah was a prophet of God. God would speak to Micah, then Micah would tell God's Word to the people. God was telling His people, that at the right time, a ruler of Israel would come from a place called Bethlehem. This would happen not when Micah was alive but in the future. In fact it would take 700 years for this word to come true.

Read Luke 2:1-14

LIGHT THE WHITE CANDLE AS A FAMILY

Say:

Who is the baby that was born when Caesar Augustus was in charge? It was Jesus! Jesus is the ruler that Micah spoke of. Jesus is not just someone who rules; He is also a Savior for all people. While we all got gifts today, God gave us the greatest gift. This gift is not just one we want, but one we need. Jesus' birth was part of God's plan to save people from their sin, a plan that started before anything was made. Jesus was born to bring God glory! Today is a day we remember God's love for us and celebrate the salvation that Jesus brings.

Pray together as a family

SCAN HERE TO WATCH/LISTEN TO:

Song: Joy to the World
by For King & Country



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
(COLOR)**

