

ndc kids

ADVENT GUIDE

DIY ADVENT WREATH SUPPLIES:

- wreath
- 5 candles
- glass jar or metal Advent wreath ring to hold the candles
- you may also need a pack of wax candle fitters to help the candles stay up straight



“Advent” simply means “arrival” and refers to the time leading up to Christmas when we look back and remember how Jesus first arrived into this world, and we look forward with longing that someday he will arrive again. We eagerly anticipate the day of his return, when he will make all things new and we will live with him forever in a perfect world, the world the way it should be.

We light candles during Advent to symbolize that though this world can be dark, Jesus is the light of the world, and he’s called us also to share his light with the world until he comes again to abolish the darkness forever and fill the world fully with his light (John 8:12; Matt 5:14; Rev 22:5).

A SIMPLE ADVENT LITURGY

Repeat for four Sundays leading up to Christmas and again on Christmas Day:

LIGHT a candle. Start with just one the first week and then add another one each time until all five are lit on Christmas Day (with the “Christ candle” in the center being the last to get lit).

READ a passage of Scripture. Consider working your way through Jesus’ birth narratives, found in Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-21. Make sure to read in a version your kids can understand (the NIV, NIRV, NLT, The Message, and the Easy-to-Read Version are good options and are all available for free at biblegateway.com and in the YouVersion Bible app). If you have a favorite children’s Bible, feel free to use that instead.

SING a Christmas carol. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” or “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” are two great ones for Advent and “Joy to the World” is a classic for Christmas Day! Make sure to explain big words or hard concepts so that your kids understand what they’re singing. Find these, as well as many of our other favorites, on the [NDC Kids Songs for Christmas Spotify Playlist](#).

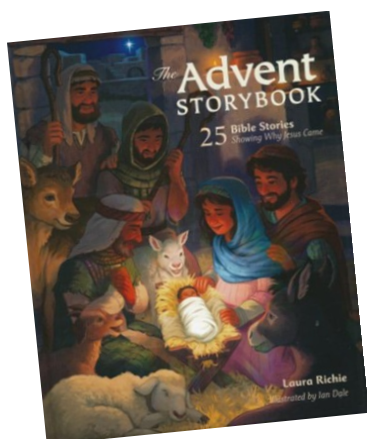
PRAY a prayer. Consider praying something along these lines...

“God, we thank you for sending Jesus into the world to show us who you are and how to live. Thank you that through Jesus we can have a relationship with you. We ask that you send Jesus again soon. We long for his arrival, for the day when there will be no more darkness and all will be made new. Until then, help us to be your



light in this world. We love you, God. Amen.”

OTHER ADVENT RESOURCES



-***The Advent Storybook: 25 Bible Stories Showing Why Jesus Came*** by Laura Richie is great for preschool and elementary kids and includes one devotional every day from Dec 1-25. There's also a babies/toddlers version titled ***My First Advent Storybook*** by Laura Richie as well as a companion coloring book.



-***The Mouse in the Manger*** by Eric & Meredith Schrottenboer retells Jesus' birth from the perspective of a fictional mouse, but includes details that actually paint a much more historically probable nativity scene than most accounts.

-***The Story of God*** by Jennie Allen is a five-book set designed to give kids a big view of God from creation to new creation. It is not an Advent-specific resource, but it contains strong Advent-themes and it would work well to read one book each Sunday leading up to Advent with the last book being read on Christmas Day.

-***This Is the Christmas Story*** by Kids Read Truth works its way from Genesis to Revelation and along the way does a great job of portraying Jesus as the light.



-***The Christmas Promise Coloring and Activity Book*** by Catalina Echeverri is a fun stocking stuffer or addition to the Advent season.

-***A Better Than Anything Christmas: Explore How Jesus Makes Christmas Better*** and ***A Jesus Christmas: Explore God's Amazing Plan for Christmas*** by Barbara Reaach are two interactive family devotionals for Dec 1-25 and are great choices for families with older kids.

