

“A Fulfilling Christmas” Family Devotion
(For adults and students in 6th-12th grade)

WEEK 2 - December 10-16

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP TIME

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about God’s mercy in sending a Savior. The only materials needed are five candles, matches, and a Bible.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Have one member of the family light last week’s candle and a second member of the family light this week’s candle.

BIBLE READING

- ★ *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.* [Micah 5:2](#)
- ★ *In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.* [Luke 2:1-7](#)

Describe a time when you looked forward to an event for a long time. What emotions did you feel as you waited? How did you feel when the wait was finally over?

HE CAME JUST AS HE SAID HE WOULD

Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets spoke of the promised Savior, telling the people how to recognize His coming and reminding them that God had not forgotten. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the Son of a virgin, a King to rule according to the lineage of David, ushering in an era of unprecedented peace. Israel watched and waited, filled with longing and expectation for this promised Deliverer.

And then, on a night unassuming and ordinary, God came—just as He said He would. A young woman named Mary, who was with child, journeyed alongside Joseph, her betrothed, from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted for the census according to Caesar's decree. The couple entered the sleepy Judean town, filled to the brim with the descendants of David, and took refuge in the only place available...a stable. And when the fullness of time had come, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. He was wrapped in cloths, laid in a manger, and given the name Jesus because He would save His people from their sins. And just like that, a whisper in the Bethlehem night, a Child was born, a Son was given.

Four hundred and fifty years of silence had passed since the final words of the prophets. At long last, a cry of deliverance was heard again, uttered from the lips of the Word Made Flesh. This newborn's cry pierced the midnight sky like a trumpet heralding sin's demise and the defeat of death forever for all who would believe. The Ancient of Days stepped into time and wrapped Himself in the frailty of human skin. He came, full of pity, compassion & power, to rescue those lost in darkness and carry them into the kingdom of everlasting light. He came, just as He said He would, to do what we never could.

With hindsight, we see in Jesus, the fulfillment of all that the prophets spoke concerning the Messiah. We understand that our Lord has done just what He said He would do in exactly the right way, at exactly the right time. We also see that God is full of compassion. He saw the desperate need of His people. He cared and acted by sending His only Son to save them.

May our hearts be encouraged! Let Advent be a time to reflect on God's good attributes and His faithfulness to do exactly what He said He would.

REFLECTION

Consider the prophecies from [Isaiah 9:1-7](#) and [Micah 5:2](#). How do you see these fulfilled in Jesus' birth?

Think about the circumstances that led Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. What do they show you about God's sovereignty?

The Old Testament contains many prophecies pointing not just to Jesus' birth, but also to the salvation He would accomplish. Look up the passages below and see how they illustrate this truth.

OT Prophecy

[Genesis 3:15](#)

[Isaiah 9:2](#)

[Isaiah 53:10-11](#)

[Isaiah 53:4](#)

[Isaiah 61:1-4](#)

NT Fulfillment

[Romans 5:6-8](#); [Galatians 4:4-7](#); [Colossians 2:13-15](#)

[Matthew 4:12-17](#); [John 1:4-5](#) & [12:46](#)

[Romans 5:1-2](#)

[Matthew 8:14-17](#)

[Luke 4:16-21](#)

God reveals many things about His nature and His character through the birth of His Son. What attributes of God do you see in this part of the Advent narrative?

RESPONSE

As you make your list of people to buy gifts for, include someone who would never expect to receive a gift from you. Think of the delight you'd feel in blessing them and then, consider the love in God's heart as He sent His Son to die for sinners.

PRAYER

In prayer, thank God for His goodness in sending a Savior. Confess places where your confidence in His faithfulness is weak and ask Him for increased trust, belief, and hope.

SONG

Sing or listen to "Away in a Manger." As you do, read carefully through the lyrics and discuss any words that might be unfamiliar. What can you learn about Jesus from these lyrics?

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Pentatonix <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kim-5IJAdU>

Jamie Grace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmOTXULopZo>