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MERRY CHRISTMAS, LUMIN FRIENDS!

Advent is “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.” It is a time of eager and expectant waiting as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas, beginning on November 27th. The first two Sundays in Advent, we look forward to Christ’s second coming. The last two Sundays, we look backward to remember Christ’s first coming. Over the course of this month, it is our hope that you understand your absolute need for Jesus and how His birth has changed your life. So, as we wait for Christmas morning, let us realize even more how much the excited waiting for Jesus and His promised return means to our lives.

TO CELEBRATE ADVENT, read the scripture passage and prayer aloud each Sunday. Another historical way that Advent is celebrated is by lighting a candle on each Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday, you light candle one; the second Sunday you light candles one and two, etc. You can also purchase Advent calendars {even with yummy chocolate}. Two other ideas for your family to recognize Advent would be to set up a nativity set in your home or participate in an act of kindness sometime during the season.

Celebrating Advent keeps our hearts and minds focused on what truly matters during what can be the busiest time of the year. We are most prepared for Christmas when we keep Jesus close in our hearts.

PRAYER AS YOU BEGIN ADVENT

Jesus, we are excited about all that it means to celebrate Your birth. Each year as this season comes around, we are reminded how much our lives are different because You were born. Show us something new this year about who You are. Remind us that we are saved because You came. We love You and we commit this Christmas season to You. Amen.



SAY
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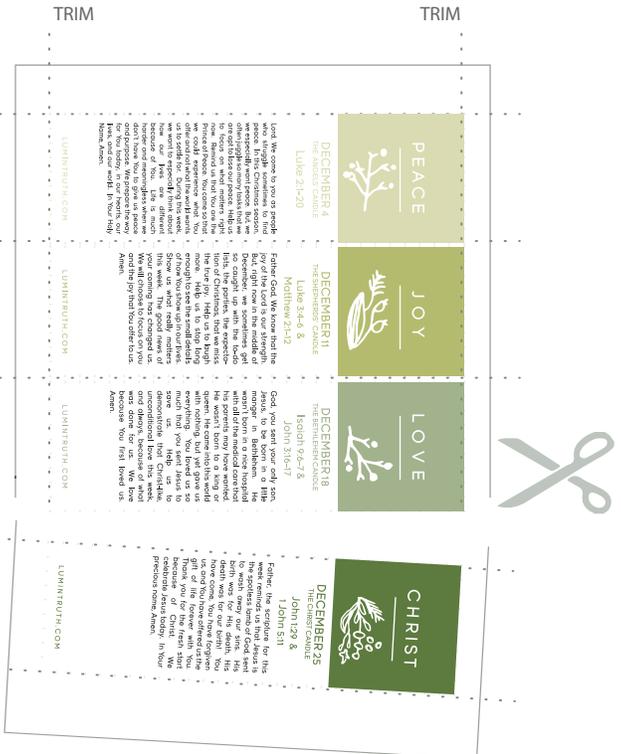


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iLUMINate | to light up



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1 PRINT PAGES
 tip print cards on 90-110lb cardstock

2 TRIM OUT BOOKMARKS

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GATHER

**LIGHT
 A
 CANDLE**

READ

PRAY

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NOVEMBER 27
 THE PROPHETS' CANDLE
 Matthew 1:18-25 &
 Romans 15:12-13

Dear Jesus, You are our hope. We were told by the prophets, your messengers, that God would send an "anointed one" – a Messiah. The Messiah would be called "Immanuel," which means "God is with us." Thank You for being with us. Thank You for coming to earth to save us. Thank You for coming in the flesh so that You could walk in our shoes and understand our human difficulties and emotions. Without You, we would be lost. The hope that we feel, even when life is not going how we would choose, is because of You. As we move into this season of celebrating Your birth, we first celebrate the hope that we have because You came. You came to live among us, to know us, to love us, and to save us. We find our hope in this dark world in You. In Your Holy name, Amen.

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PEACE



DECEMBER 4
THE ANGELS' CANDLE

Luke 2:1-20

Lord, We come to you as people who struggle sometimes to find peace. In this Christmas season, we especially want peace. But, we often juggle so many tasks that we are apt to lose our peace. Help us to focus on what matters right now. Remind us that You are the Prince of Peace. You came so that we could experience what You offer and not what the world wants us to settle for. During this week, we want to especially think about how our lives are different because of You. Life is much harder and meaningless when we don't have You to give us peace and purpose. We prepare the way for You today, in our hearts, our lives, and our world. In Your Holy Name, Amen.

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JOY



DECEMBER 11
THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE

Luke 3:4-6 &

Matthew 2:1-12

Father God, We know that the joy of the Lord is our strength. But, right now in the middle of December, we sometimes get so caught up with the to-do lists, the parties, the expectation of Christmas, that we miss the true joy. Help us to laugh more. Help us to stop long enough to see the small details of how You show up in our lives. Show us what really matters this week. The good news of your coming has changed us. We will choose to focus on you and the joy that You offer to us. Amen.

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LOVE



DECEMBER 18
THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

Isaiah 9:6-7 &

John 3:16-17

God, you sent your only son, Jesus, to be born in a little manger in Bethlehem. He wasn't born in a nice hospital with all of the medical care that his parents may have wanted. He wasn't born to a king or queen. He came into this world with nothing, but yet gave us everything. You loved us so much that you sent Jesus to save us. Help us to demonstrate that Christ-like, unconditional love this week, and always, because of what was done for us. We love because You first loved us. Amen.

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CHRIST



DECEMBER 25
THE CHRIST CANDLE

John 1:29 &

1 John 5:11

Father, the scripture for this week reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins. His birth was for His death, His death was for our birth! You have come, You have forgiven us, and You have offered us the gift of life forever with You. Thank you for the fresh start because of Christ. We celebrate Jesus today. In Your precious name, Amen.

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