

Using The Light of the World Advent Study

A gentle rhythm for family learning and worship through the Advent season

'And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.' -John 1:5

This ADVENT study is designed to gently guide your family through this season with a FOCUS on HIS PRESENCE instead of presents. We have combined scripture, learning, reflections, and worship together and woven in nature studies, hands-on activities, and quiet moments for the whole family to enjoy. Use this as an anchor or outline to set the rhythm for homeschool days with meaning and light during this season as you prepare your hearts and home for CHRIST's coming.

Please don't feel like you must do ALL the activities ... these are just gentle outlines of things that you can do. If your heart, or your child's heart, leads you down another path - follow it and see where it may go. You can always come back here again.

I do encourage you to look up the Bible scriptures as I may have made some errors. I would also try to look up the hymns and the artwork, if possible. You can find them online to print out but due to possible copyright infringements I have not included them in this packet.

I also encourage you to look through the weekly sections as you may find that you want to purchase items to have on hand for some of the activities that are mentioned. You may also think of other activities that aren't listed like going to a Nativity Scene or seeing Christmas Lights... don't be afraid to incorporate your own traditions into this study.

Our Grace & Gratitude Devotional ties perfectly with this one as well, you may find ideas in there to help prepare you for the ADVENT season. Keep it simple though; this season is already stressful enough for many, and we don't want this to be a burden to anyone.

We love having the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas set aside for a special time to prepare our hearts and focus on the true reason for the season. This is just one way for us to do that. I've spent money on studies in the past and this year the funds are a little tighter, so I just wanted to try to do something on my own. We hope this blesses someone else the way it will bless our family!

We pray you all have a wonderful holiday season.

GOD BLESS!

Integrated Learning Lessons:

Scripture & Bible Study (Language Arts & Reflection)

- Read scripture passages, discussions or journals, copy work, and memory verses.

Math

- Apply math through real-life, creative tasks like measuring, multiplying recipes, and budgeting.

History

- Study Biblical or historical figures, places, and events.

Science/Nature

- Exploring the weekly theme through nature and GOD's creation.

Hymns

- Study and reflect on weekly hymns and its importance.

Art

- Study historical paintings and their connections to this study.

Preschool

- Engage preschoolers in the daily lessons with simple, fun activities.

Family Activities

- Activities to include the whole family and allow for deeper reflections and discussions on the weekly theme.

YouTube is a great resource for finding documentaries and historical videos to go with the lessons. You can also check your local library for books and materials.

We will try to post our daily activities and links to resources in a separate post for our blog followers, so be sure to check out the blog for those links!

Sample Schedule:

Daily:

- Go over the memory verse (on page 1), Bible Focus, and weekly theme.
- You may choose to have your child use the memory verse, scripture, or hymn as copy work.
- Read through the daily scripture reading and choose one Language Art (LA) activities to work on.
- Choose a math activity to work on, *or you may choose to find some fun worksheets.*
- Choose a Science/Nature activity or a History activity.
- Choose a Music or Art Activity – *we like to listen to our hymn every day.*
- Choose a Preschool Activity or two to work through for the week.
- Choose a Family Activity or save them for the weekend.

Weekends (optional Family Focus):

- Take a Sabbath rest
- Go on a nature walk
- Spend time as a family reviewing the past week's lessons and activities.
- Reflect together on how GOD's LIGHT has shown through this week.
- Discuss your plans for the upcoming week.

You may also choose to focus on one subject per day plus daily scripture readings. You may choose not to do all the subjects to keep things a little simpler; it's completely up to you and your family on how to use this.

Preparing for this ADVENT Study:

I am including the following notes to help prepare you for this study, in case you haven't used the Grace & Gratitude Devotional, or if you just want a little transition to get from Thanksgiving to Advent.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LORD, thank YOU for the beauty of GRACE and gift of GRATITUDE. As we gather for Thanksgiving, fill our hearts with JOY, PEACE, and the awareness of YOUR goodness. Help us to live each day as an offering of THANKS to you as we remember that EVERY breath, EVERY blessing, and EVERY moment of GRACE comes from YOUR LOVING hand. AMEN.

From GRATITUDE to HOPE: Giving Thanks for the PROMISE of HIS coming

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. - Isaiah 9:2

Family Reflection

As Thanksgiving fades and Advent draws near, we pause between seasons– one rooted in GRATITUDE, and the other in HOPE.

We have thanked GOD for HIS GRACE, for the harvest, and for HIS provision through the year. Now we lift our eyes toward the PROMISE of the new LIGHT – the LIGHT of the WORLD coming to dwell with us.

Just as Israel waited for the MESSIAH with longing hearts, we, too, wait. Yet we do not wait empty-handed. We wait THANKFULLY, holding all we've been given in one hand and all we HOPE for in the other. GRATITUDE becomes the soil where HOPE grows.

When we remember how FAITHFUL GOD has been, it becomes easier to TRUST that HE will be FAITHFUL still.

Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus by Charles Wesley

- 'Born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.'

Discussion

- How can GRATITUDE strengthen my HOPE?
- What am I HOPING or longing for as ADVENT begins?

Family Activities

- Start a JOY Jar – write one thing that brings you JOY each day.
- Do secret acts of kindness for your family, friends, and neighbors.
- Take walks together as a family and THANK GOD for HIS wonderful creation.
- Read a Psalm of Thanksgiving as a family

Family Prayer

FATHER, YOU have filled our hearts with GRATITUDE and our tables with abundance. As we turn our hearts toward ADVENT, help us carry THANKFULNESS into our waiting. Let HOPE arise from the soil of GRATITUDE and let YOUR LIGHT guide us into the season ahead. In JESUS' name. AMEN.

NOTES:

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'For with THEE is the fountain of LIFE; in thy LIGHT shall we see LIGHT.'

Psalm 36:9

A four-week journey of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. For families walking in HIS LIGHT, who seek to learn, grow, and worship together in the gentle glow of HIS TRUTH and GRACE.

Week 1: HOPE – The PROMISE of LIGHT

Week 2: PEACE – Preparing the Way

Week 3: JOY – The Song of Creation

Week 4: LOVE – The Gift of EMMANUEL 'GOD with Us'

Christmas Week: CHRIST – The LIGHT of the WORLD