

Christmas Season Devotionals

ADVENT: PREPARATION

The four Sundays leading up to Christmas eve is a precious time to prepare our hearts in remembrance of the 1st Coming of Jesus Christ. In fact, *Advent* means *Coming*, and while we are preparing to receive Christ, we can also lean forward with great expectation for the 2nd Coming of our Lord.

To begin many advent displays have a wreath for the base ([optional wreath with candles](#)). The evergreen symbolizes God's everlasting love for His creation and like a circle having no end, the wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. Then there are typically 4 candles placed around the circular wreath, usually 4 purple candles, although the third candle is sometimes pink. Finally, there is another white candle, representing Christ, to be placed in the middle. Another option is to provide a nativity scene hunt for children to experience and interact with. More will be explained as each Sunday unfolds. If you don't already have a nativity display, here is an [optional nativity scene](#) to purchase, but you might find one cheaper elsewhere.

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PROPHECY

Theme: HOPE

Talk about: (1) How do you feel when someone keeps their promise to you? (2) What are you hoping for this Christmas?

Candle Lighting Option: You can count on God keeping His promise. From the words of His prophets in the Bible, God promised the coming birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the **HOPE** of the prophets, and it came true. Read Isaiah 40:3-5; 7:14; 9:2, and as you light the first purple candle, rejoice over His promise kept. What a great hope the prophets foretold about that we have in Jesus' birth and look forward to Him coming again.

Nativity Option: At this time you can pull out the manger portion of your nativity scene or have your children go and find it in your home. But don't forget to remind them that they can be hopeful in finding it. When they do find it and bring it to you to set out on display, you can share that we all can count on God keeping His promise. From the words of His prophets in the Bible, God promised the coming birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is what the prophets hoped for and it came true. Read Isaiah 40:3-5; 7:14; 9:2, and rejoice over His promise kept. What a great hope the prophets foretold about that we have in Jesus' birth and look forward to Him coming again.

Close by writing down as many promises God has kept that you can think of. Thank Him in prayer for these promises, the great hope you have in Him.