





Partnering with families to raise up the next generation of disciple makers.



At Connection Church we exist to connect people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

We want to help you create a better Christmas experience this year for your kids and teenagers. From the moment they are born we have 936 weeks before our children are grown. Our purpose for this Family Worship Guide is for you as a parent to have the most memorable season with your family as we celebrate the story of Advent.

To access our digital Advent reading plan that compliments this guide please visit our website connection-savannah.com

ADVENT WEEK 1 - Nov 29th-Dec 3rd

- **Big Thought =** Jesus Came For ME!
- **Theme =** To give God glory in salvation and to make man glad in God.
- **Go =** Invite a neighbor over for a meal.

- **Pre-K** = 'Jesus came to save people.'
- **K 5th =** 'Jesus came to find and save the lost.'
- 6th Adult = 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

ADVENT WEEK 1 - November 29

The word advent means "coming." In this season of the year, we focus on the meaning of the coming of the Son of God into the world. And the spirit of our celebration should be the spirit in which he came. And the spirit of that coming is summed up in

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

- Family Talk =
- 1. Have you ever lost something?
- 2. What does Jesus save us from?
- 3. What does Jesus save us for?

Dear God, thank you for coming for me. I am lost

- Prayer = without you. We as a family celebrate your salvation and ask that you help as we grow closer to you this season.
 In Jesus name. Amen
- Go =

Put up the Christmas tree and light it up! This is a reminder that Christ died on the cross, a tree, for our sins!

ADVENT WEEK 1 - November 30

How can we prepare our heart to receive Christ this season?

It's very simple:

- 1. The heart must become disenchanted with the praise of men.
- 2. The heart must become disenchanted with the need of money and things to satisfy the soul.
- 3. There must come into the heart a longing for comfort and a salvation beyond what the world can give.
- 4. There must be a revelation from God the Father, opening the eyes of the heart so that it cries out, like a man who stumbles onto an incredible treasure, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God, now I receive you—for who you really are."
 - Family Talk =

Prayer =

Go =

- What are some things that you love?
 What is one thing you want for Christmas this year?
- 3. How can we view a relationship with
 - Jesus as a treasure?

Dear God, I want to celebrate Christmas this year because of the true meaning - Your Son coming for me! Help me focus on Him, In Jesus name. Amen.

Watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with the family. (The original version works best for young kids)

Jesus came to invite us to come to Him. This is His invitation in these Advent readings: "Draw near to me through your High Priest. Draw near to me in confession and prayer and meditation and trust and praise. Come. I will not cast you out." For Christ "is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). Intercession means Jesus prays for us! Is it not a wonderful thing this Advent season to know that God invites us to come? This great, holy God of love says, "Draw near to me through my Son, your High Priest. Draw near to me."

- Family Talk =
- Who are you closest to in your family?
 What is your favorite thing to do together?
 How do we get close to God our Father?

Dear God, my desire to know you is small. But I want a **Prayer =** BIG desire for you. Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for loving me Jesus. In Your name. Amen.

• Go = Write a letter to Jesus thanking Him for coming to save us. Or draw him a picture and hang it around the house. Dont worry about postage... He will see it! ;)

Christmas is about the coming of Christ into the world. It's about the Son of God, who existed eternally with the Father as "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature," taking on human nature and becoming a man (Heb. 1:3). The words in Mark 10:45 is a brief expression of Christmas. Look it up. Open your heart to receive the best present imaginable: Jesus giving himself to die for you and to serve you all the rest of eternity. Receive this. Turn away from self-help and sin. Become like little children. Trust him. Trust him with your life. 1. What does it mean to serve?

- Family Talk =
- 2. How did Jesus serve in coming to earth?
- 3. What would it look like for you to serve in our family?
- **Prayer =** Dear God, Thank you so, so much! You came in such a cool way and showed me how to live. Help me to serve others like you did! In Jesus name. Amen.
- Go = Make some Christmas cookies together while discussing how God made us. Then carry some over to a neighbor to share!

Why did Christmas happen?

Our sin. The works of sin and the devil. Make this personal and love Him for it. Take the very personal words of Paul and make them your own. "The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). This is how he destroyed the works of the Devil and rescued us from our sin. Don't leave Christmas in the abstract. Your sin. Your conflict with the Devil. Your victory. He came for this!

- 1. What is sin? (anything we think, say, or do
- Family Talk =
- that breaks God's law and heart.)
- 2. When someone hurts you, how does that make you feel?
- 3. Can Jesus forgive every sin?
- **Prayer =** Dear God, Thank you for coming to defeat sin and the devil. Thank you for dying in my place on the cross. Thank you for Christmas! In Jesus name. Amen.
- **Go** = Anonymously pay for someones food or coffee in line!

ADVENT WEEK 2 - Dec 6th - Dec 10th

- **Big Thought =** God Can Be Trusted!
- **Theme =** I can trust God for my salvation because He keeps His Word.
- **Go** = Do something together for a needy family in your church or neighborhood.

Memory Verse John 1:1

- **Pre-K** = 'In the beginning was Jesus,'
- **K 5th =** 'In the beginning was Jesus, and he was with God, and he is God..

'In the beginning was the **6th - Adult =** Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'

Christmas is the story of the foundation of all truth and goodness and beauty, because Christmas means: God is truthful. God's truthfulness is a constant. God's truthfulness is the unwavering absolute. If we forsake God's truthfulness, the anchor is up, the rudder is loose, the keel is broken, and the ship of life is simply at the mercy of the wind of human wishes. Demonstrating the truthfulness of God is a great blessing. Give that blessing to your children. Say to the next generation again and again: God is truthful; God keeps his word; God does not lie; God can be trusted! That's one blessing of Advent. Receive it as a wonderful Christmas gift, and give it to as many people as you can.

- Family Talk =
- What is something that is true about God?
 What is one thing that you know about God?
- **Prayer =** Dear God, thank you for being full of truth. Help me know real freedom because I know you. Your Truth sets me free! In Jesus name. Amen
- Go = Raid the pantry for canned goods and donate them to a local food pantry.

A key verse for today is John 3:14–15: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." It's not simply because he is human. It's because the figure of a "Son of Man" in Daniel 7:13 is both human and far more than human. This was Jesus's favorite designation for himself—Son of Man. It's used over eighty times in the Gospels, and only Jesus uses it to refer to himself. So, you could say that the greatest glory that we would ever see is the glory of the Son of Man, the Lord of heaven, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, lifted up on a cross to die for sinners. So, when you see Him this Advent season as Son of God and as King of Israel and as Son of Man, make sure that you see him dying to give you eternal life and, therefore, see him as glorious.

• Family Talk

Prayer =

• Go =

- 1. Name something that you could give away?
- 2. Why do we give gifts at Christmas?
- 3. What it means for Jesus to give "Himself" for you and me?

Dear God, thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus to the world. He is the best gift ever. Please help us to always celebrate the love you showed us by sending Him. In Jesus name. Amen.

Clean out your toy boxes or closets and donate good quality items to an opportunity store. Make it fun!

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." - 1 John 3:8

The coming of the eternal Son of God into the world as the Godman, Jesus Christ, is a fact of history. Yet thousands of people say they believe this fact but then live just like everybody else. That's because the coming of the Son of God into the world is so much more than a historical fact. It is God's message of hope this Advent that what is good never needs to be lost and what is bad can be changed. The Devil works to take the good and bring the bad. Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil.

• Family Talk =

 Have you ever broke anything that can't be fixed?
 What was the last time you did something that you knew you shouldn't do?

3. How does Jesus help us overcome our sin ?

• Prayer =

Dear God, my desire to sin is strong. The devil wants me to do bad to harm me and those around me. Please help me to do good through your power Jesus. Thank you. In Your name. Amen.

• Go = Decorate a gingerbread house together and discuss how Jesus changes our desires as we get closer to Him..

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Jesus teaches us that the God who exists loves. Let that sink in. The God who absolutely is. Loves. He loves. Of all the things you might say about God, be sure to say this: He loves. Think on that this Advent. It was a very costly love. A very powerful love. A very rugged, painful love. The meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this love. "God so loved . . .", He gave. God gives this costly love to an undeserving world of sinners, like us.

• Family Talk=

Prayer =

- 1. What is your favorite day of the year?
 2. How many people did Jesus die for?
- 3. What value did Jesus put on our lives?

Dear God, Thank you so much for dying for me. My salvation cost you everything and gave me everything. Wow! Thank you for your great love. In Jesus name. Amen.

• Go = Make a manger with twigs you collect from outside and talk about God's love in sending Baby Jesus in such a humble way.

Read the memory verse. John 1:1

This verse teaches that the one we know as Jesus Christ, before he was made flesh, was God, and that the Father also was God. God is a plurality of persons and a singular God. This is part of the truth that we know as the Trinity. Father-Son-Spirit=ONE! This is why we worship Jesus Christ and say with Thomas in John 20:28, "My Lord and my God!" The Son of God became divine communication to us. One might say, in summary, calling Jesus "the Word" implies that he is "God-Expressing-Himself." To us.

• Family Talk =

Prayer =

1. Describe yourself in one sentence.

2. How does God "express" Himself?3. How do we communicate God to the world?

Dear God, I want to express you to the world! Help me have courage to learn and know the "Word" which is knowing Jesus. Then share him with the world. In Jesus name. Amen.

• **Go =** Make and mail a Christmas card to a family member or friend. Tell them what Jesus means to you!

ADVENT WEEK 3 - Dec 13th - Dec 17th

- **Big Thought =** Jesus changes ME!
- **Theme =** Jesus changed history when He came to earth!
- Go = Throw a Birthday party for Jesus at your house or in your neighborhood and invite some friends.

- Pre-K = 'The prophets said Jesus was coming'
- **K 5th =** 'The prophets predicted these days just as they happened.
- 6th Adult = 'All the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

God's gifts are precious beyond words, and we will sing of them forever. But the most precious gifts you can think of are not ends in themselves. They all lead to God himself. Ultimately, that is what all His gifts are for. This is the meaning of His coming. This is the meaning of Christmas. That God would awaken your heart to your deep need for mercy as a sinner! And then capture your heart with a great Savior, Jesus Christ. This is what Christmas is all about. God sending His Son to do what we never could. The greatest gift to ever be given!

- Family Talk =
- 1. Why do you think we give stuff away on Christmas?
- 2. What is mercy?
- 3. This season, what would be the best gift you could give Jesus?

Dear God, thank you for the best gift ever! Thank you

- **Prayer =** for not giving me what I deserve but instead sending your Son. May my life praise Him. In Jesus name. Amen
- **Go =** Have a funny Christmas sweater photo shoot with your family. Post them on Social Media!

Christmas cut history into two ages: the age of promise and the age of fulfillment. So when Peter says in Acts 3:24, "All the prophets . . . proclaimed these days," we see that he means "these last days" (Heb. 1:2), in which God has spoken to us in his Son, the days from the first Christmas to the time of consummation yet to come. This is where we live. The already of fulfillment is massive incarnation, crucifixion, atonement, propitiation, resurrection, ascension, heavenly reign, intercession, outpouring of the Holy Spirit, global missions, ingathering of the nations, church, New Testament Scriptures, prayer in Jesus's name, joy unspeakable, and purchased certainty. Christmas split history. Foretastes of the future abound. Drink deeply on what he achieved for us. And be filled with hope for all that is coming.

• Family Talk =

Go =

- 1. What is your favorite story?
- 2. What is your favorite part about the Christmas story?
- 3. How has Jesus changed your life?

Dear God, history is your Story. Thank you for including us in the salvation plan of Christmas. Help

• **Prayer =** me share the true meaning of Christmas with someone. In Jesus name. Amen.

Hook your phone to the TV and revisit all the photos from the year. This will be fun!

Whoever would be first among you must be slave of all." Mark 10:44

Jesus expects his disciples to be radically different from the way people ordinarily act. They are to serve each other and unbelievers. In that service they are to drink the cup of whatever suffering it will cost. And it will cost. But if that were the only message of Christianity, it would not be good news. There would be no gospel. I need more than for someone to tell me what I should do and should be. I need help to be and to do. This is why Jesus says what he says in Mark 10:45:

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."



- 1. How can you serve your family?
- 2. How did Jesus serve others?
- 3. What is the best way to show others the story of Christmas?

Dear God, you are the perfect picture of a servant. Help **Prayer =** me to serve my family, friends and those that I don't know. This is why you came. In Jesus name. Amen.

• Go = Hop in the car in your PJs and drive around to look at Christmas lights.

When you become a Christian—a disciple of Jesus—you do not become His helper. He becomes your helper. You do not become His benefactor. He becomes your benefactor. You do not become His servant. He becomes your servant. Jesus does not need your help; he commands your obedience and offers His help. He came to serve, not to be served. He came to help us do everything he calls us to do. He may be doing it for you in this Advent season—graciously and tenderly frustrating you with life that is not centered on Christ and filling you with longings and desires that can't find their satisfaction in what this world offers, but only in the God-man - Jesus Christ.

• Family Talk =

1. What does obedience mean?

2. What frustrates you from time to time?

- 3. How can that be solved in Christ?
- **Prayer =** Dear God, thank you for being my helper. I am never alone. You are always with me and I want to obey you with my life. In Jesus name. Amen.

Take a pack of paper and write "Merry Christmas" on one of the
 sheets and then ball up the stack of paper and have a South
 Georgia snow ball fight. When it is over unravel the papers and whoever finds the one with the writing wins a prize of your choice. No children should get hurt - Calm down Dads!

We simply cannot negotiate with God. We have nothing of value that is not already His by right. He never gets tired. He never gets depressed. He never gets lonely. He never gets hungry. In other words, if you want what Jesus has to give, you can't buy it. You can't trade for it. You can't work for it. All we can do is submit to his spectacular offer to be our servant. And this submission is called faith—a willingness to let him be God. Trust him to be the Supplier, the Strengthener, the Counselor, the Guide, the Savior. And being satisfied with that with all that God is for us in Jesus. That's what faith is. And having that is what it means to be a Christian.

- Family Talk =
- 1. What is something that you've always
- wanted?
- 2. What is something money cannot buy?
- 3. What does it mens to have faith in Christ?

• Prayer =

Go =

Dear God, my faith seems so small so often. Please enlarge my faith by enlarging my knowledge of you. Thank you for being my everything. In Jesus name. Amen.

Make a campfire(or fireplace) and sit around it for dinner. Create good conversation about your faith and what it looks like acted out.

ADVENT WEEK 4 - Dec 20th - Dec 25th

- **Big Thought =** I can be part of God's Family!
- Theme =

It takes one step to know Jesus but many steps to follow after Him.

• Go =

Invite one person, friend, coworker or neighbor to the Christmas Eve service this year at Church.

Memory Verse Romans 5:11

Pre-K = 'Jesus won us back.'

K - 5th ='We have joy in God through ourLord Jesus Christ, through him we
have been won back.

6th - Adult = 'We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

How do we practically receive reconciliation and rejoice in God?

Answer: through Jesus Christ. Which means the work and the words of Jesus portrayed in the New Testament—the essential content of your rejoicing in God. Rejoicing without the content of Christ does not honor Christ. Look to Jesus this Christmas. Receive the reconciliation that he bought. Don't put it on the shelf unopened. And don't open it and then make it a means to all your other pleasures. Open it and enjoy the gift. Rejoice in him. Make him your pleasure. Make him your treasure.

• Family Talk =

What is a gift you remember receiving?
 Have you received the gift of Salvation?

• Prayer =

Dear God, thank you for winning us back to yourself by dying on the cross. You earned OUR salvation. We OWE you our allegiance. We as a family choose to follow you. In Jesus name. Amen

• Go = Find someone who may need a little help this Christmas. Go shopping for them!

When people have doubts about the truth of Jesus, don't send them away to seek special messages from God. Point them to Christ. Tell them what you have seen and heard in his life and teachings. Why? Because this is where God breaks in with his revealing power. He loves to glorify his Son! He loves to open the eyes of the blind when they are looking at his Son! How shall you prepare your heart this Christmas to receive Christ? Fix your gaze on him in the Bible. Look to Christ! Consider Jesus. And pray. Look beyond your own flesh and blood and ask that God would give your eyes to see and ears to hear that you might cry out with Peter, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God!"

• Family Talk =

Go =

- 1. What are some real fears that you have?
- 2. Have you ever doubted your faith?
- 3. How do these doubts and fears stand in

light of who Jesus says He is?

Dear God, I don't know it all. Truth is, sometimes I'm

• **Prayer =** scared. Please help me have faith in you over the fears and insecurities we carry, In Jesus name. Amen.

Let the kids randomly pick stuff from the pantry and create a recipe for dinner. The catch is that they have to eat it too... help them but let them have ownership.

There is a deeper peace, a peace that must happen before there can be peace on earth. There must be peace between us and God. Our unbelief and His wrath must be removed. That is our deepest peace and our deepest need at Christmas. Yes, there are enemies on earth that must be defeated if we are to have peace. But the great enemy called sin and judgment, that is the greatest and worst enemy. The Gospel at Christmas is "Christ has trampled this enemy underfoot at the cross. So, for everyone who trusts in Him, their sins are cast into the depths of the sea."

Therefore, we say not, "Glory to us," but, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Family Talk =

- 1. What brings you the most peace?
- 2. Have you asked God to forgive you of your sins and chose to follow Him?
- 3. What can hinder our peace as Christfollowers?

Dear God, please forgive me of my sins and become

- **Prayer =** my Savior. I need you. Thank you for dying for me and defeating death in the resurrection. I receive what you have done through faith. In Jesus name. Amen.
- Go = Spread blankets in the yard and do some stargazing. Talk about the greatness of our God and how the wise men followed the star to find Jesus.

Christ is the "yes" to all God's promises, so if you trust Him, they will all be your inheritance. Already, Micah made clear that Christ will secure for us the promises of God. Micah 5:2-4. 2 Corinthians 1:20, "All the promises of God find their Yes in Him." If you are "in Him" by faith, you will inherit all the promises of God. Micah's prediction came true in Jesus. And thus, all the promises were confirmed. God has told the truth. Christmas is God's great confirmation of all his promises. If Christ has come, God is true. And if God is true, all the promises will come true for all who trust Him. Receive this unspeakable gift.

- 1. Have you ever made a promise that you couldn't
- Family Talk = keep?
 - 2. What is one promise of scripture that is yet to happen?
- **Prayer =** Dear God, you have NEVER broken a promise! You are the great Promise Keeper. According to scripture, so much is yet to happen. I want my family and I to be a part of it! In Jesus name. Amen.
- Go = Discuss some attainable goals for the next year. Then make a fun video to hold your family accountable! To up your level of accountability include your Connect Group!

The Word- Jesus, became flesh and dwelt among us, so that He could give His flesh for the life of the world. We sinners can receive grace upon grace from His fullness because he came to die for us. Christmas was from the beginning a preparation for Good Friday. So, throughout the Gospel of John the meaning of Christmas becomes clear. The Word became flesh. He revealed the glory of God as never before. He died according to his own plan. Because of His death in our place, He is bread for us. He is the source of forgiveness and righteousness and life.

This is the great meaning of Christmas in the Gospel of John.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son[d] from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

• **Family Talk =** 1. How can we as a family share Christmas the Gospel message with the world?

Dear God, I want my family to be Ambassadors for

• **Prayer =** Christ. Empower & Equip us for this, In Jesus name. Amen.

Attend the Christmas Eve Service @ Connection Savannah. Go = Once tucked into bed read "The Night before Christmas." For older children make it fun by acting out the different roles.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Dec 25

The Christmas Story

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 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, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,[b] who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 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. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. 21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:1-21



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