

GETTING STARTED

If we have LED candles, let's turn one on (or light a candle).
Taking a few deep breaths, we can offer this prayer, or one of our own:

Hi God: I AM HERE, YOU ARE HERE; WE ARE HERE. AMEN

In Advent we are invited to
"cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

What are some ways
we can keep from getting caught up
in bad stuff on the news
and notice
the good things?



Next week, we can share what we are discovering
the good things
that people are doing.

We can be on the lookout for things people are doing
to make our world a better place.

Advent means; "something's coming."
We get to choose how we will do Advent in our family.
What strategies could free up some time? (Fewer computer games?)
What time will work for us to be together as a family?

SOME THINGS TO NOTICE THIS WEEK.

A STORY:
MATTHEW 24: 36-44 (Read it - or tell it like this)
In this passage, Jesus says he will come back
Exactly when?
Not our job to figure out. Our job is to be ready!
What are some things we are already doing?
What are some things we could choose to add?
If Jesus knocked on our door today,
What we ask him?
What would we say
What would we do to help?

DISCUSSION STARTERS
(for older children and adults)
ISAIAH 2:1-5
A different Bible translation can be interesting.
THE MESSAGE - paraphrased by Eugene Peterson, for example.
(to download a passage: www.biblegateway.com)
"He'll show us the way he works
so we can continue the way we're made."
What are some clues we see
about the way God works?
What helps us notice ways
we are continuing
in the way we're made?

First Week of Advent Nov 27 - Dec 3, 2016

Some things that will help:
4 LED candles - or a traditional Advent Wreath.
A Bible.

GETTING STARTED

We can turn on two LEDs or light two candles.
Let's take a couple of deep breaths;
we can offer this prayer (or our own):

Hi GOD: I AM HERE, YOU ARE HERE; WE ARE HERE. AMEN.

What was one helpful thing
someone did for each of us
this week.

How did that make us feel?



A STORY:
MATTHEW 3: 1-12 (Read it - or tell it like this)
"Repent! The kingdom has come near!"

Another word for *Repent* could be *Oops!*.

What do we do when we see we've done an *Oops!*?
Yes, we feel bad, but what can we do differently?

"The kingdom" said Matthew. We could call it *God's Way*.

What *God's Way things* do we see *happening*?

What are some ways we are trying
to do things *God's Way*??

What things are we choosing to do as we create our own Advent?

Then, in the week ahead, let's be on the lookout
for an opportunity for each of us
to do something helpful
for another person.

How did it make that person feel?

How did that make us feel?

What did that person do to make things better?

When was there a time this week when one of us said, *oops!*

SOME THINGS TO NOTICE THIS WEEK

DISCUSSION STARTERS
(for older children and adults)
ISAIAH 11:1-10

Isaiah dreams that "neither animal nor human will hurt or kill."

What are some signs we see of people trying to make that happen?

In what ways would we agree that Jesus
pulled on work clothes and boots and got to work?

What is some of the work we see
others doing?

What is some work each of us
has chosen?

Second Week of Advent Dec. 4 - 10, 2016

Some things that will help:
4 LED candles - or a traditional Advent Wreath.

A Bible.

GETTING STARTED

Three LED candles (or three candles) can set the tone.
After a couple of deep breaths we can say this prayer, or our own:

Hi God: I AM HERE, YOU ARE HERE, WE ARE HERE. AMEN.

What helpful thing
did each of us
do this past week?

How did that make us feel?



How does knowing we are important to God
help us to do hard things?

John the Baptist sent word to Jesus: "Are you the one?
Jesus sent John signs he would understand.
Then Jesus said:
"John was great. But my message is not about the greatest.
In My Way, the message is that everyone is important."

A Story:
MATTHEW 11:2-11 (Read it - or tell it like this)

DISCUSSION STARTERS
(for older children and adults)
Isaiah 7: 10-16
"It is going to happen!" exclaims Isaiah.
There will be a path -- the Holy Way --
for everyone
God seems to be amazingly patient:
Isaiah lived over 2600 years ago.
What progress do we see?
What can we do
to add to this progress?

Maybe this is the week
we head out one evening
to see all the lights.

How are we doing with our family Advent plans?
(People collecting toys for children, etc.)
What are we seeing - on the news?. In our community?
What are some signs we see that
people are more generous this time of year?

SOME THINGS TO NOTICE THIS WEEK?

Third Week of Advent
Dec 11 - 18, 2016

Some things that will help:
4 LED candles - or a traditional Advent Wreath.
A Bible.

GETTING STARTED

Let's take a few deep breaths and notice each other as we enjoy all four of our candles and offer this prayer (or one of our own):

Hi GOD: I AM HERE, YOU ARE HERE, WE ARE HERE. AMEN.

We can discuss how we can help each other with our To Do Lists. We probably have way too much to do alone.

Then, let's just sit with the light of our candles, maybe some music we like, and simply be: human BEings.



A STORY:
MATTHEW 1:18-25 (Read it - or tell it like this)

Mary, and then Joseph, get the news from angels that they are going to be parents of a baby. They name the baby, "Emmanuel" because the name means, "God is with us."

Who are some people who have been "angels" to us? Helping us when we least suspected it?

What are some things we are noticing that assure us that God is with us?

What Good News are we noticing this Advent?

What signs do we see that people are getting the Good News?

What do we think they made of the "signs?"

People wanted someone to zap away all their troubles. Isaiah tells them: they will get a sign, but not at all what they expect.

DISCUSSION STARTERS
(for older children and adults -
Isaiah 7:10-16

SOME THINGS TO NOTICE THIS WEEK

A young child, looking at an ad for toys, exclaims: "I've got this, I have this!"

As we gaze at the wrapped packages under our tree, what if we made a point of noticing all the things we already have?

Let's see how many things we can notice this week that we already have.

Fourth Week of Advent
Dec. 19 - 24, 2016

Some things that will help:
4 LED candles or a traditional Advent Wreath
A Bible.