

Advent Tree

An Advent Practice for Families



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The season of Advent, the first of the new church year, consists of the four weeks prior to Christmas. It is during this time that we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In the not-so-distant past, Advent was sacred. Traditions included lighting an Advent Wreath with one candle for each of the four Sundays of the season and using an Advent calendar to mark the days. Recently, an Advent calendar can just as commonly be found to count down the days to Santa's arrival.

As a way of calling us back to the roots of Advent and create a simple way for families to be together and focus the season on Christ, you have been given the supplies to create your own Advent calendar of sorts, an Advent Tree.



Enclosed in this small packet is a listing of the days of Advent, beginning this year on Sunday, December 1. Next to each day is a Scripture reference and a name or descriptor of Jesus. You are invited to use the supplies you have been given to create 25 ornaments, each bearing one of these names. Hang one on the tree each day of Advent.

Avoid making this a chore or another activity to cram into the family calendar. Use the pattern of your family to make it work.

- ▲ Your family may choose to decorate the ornaments all at the same time or one each day.
- ▲ Maybe the breakfast table is the best place to gather as you look up the verse and decorate the ornament.
- ▲ Perhaps adding this to bedtime rituals makes the most sense.
- ▲ If your family members aren't particularly crafty, simply add the name without embellishing.
- ▲ Add it to an Advent tradition you're already practicing - Use the reference in addition to your Advent devotional or along with your Advent wreath.
- ▲ Replace the ornaments provided with others that may be applicable to the reference to Christ (i.e. a sheep ornament for "Lamb of God").

Regardless, this is your family's tree. Use it to learn more about Christ and to spend faith-filled time together as a family this Advent season.

Supplies:

- ★ Small tabletop evergreen tree
- ★ 25 ornaments of varying styles and types
- ★ Permanent marker
- ★ Ornament hooks
- ★ Various craft supplies (sequins, glitter glue, pom poms, chenille stems, cotton balls, paint, etc.)

Instructions:

1. Using the provided list of Scripture references to Jesus, use the permanent marker to write the name/descriptor of Jesus, one per ornament (this may be a job for an adult)
2. Use the craft supplies to decorate the ornaments. You might:
 - Remove the hanger from a clear ornament and drip a small amount of paint (not included) in, tilting it to create an interesting pattern
 - Remove the hanger from a clear ornament and fill it with cotton balls, chenille stems, beads, sequins, or other items
 - Use glitter glue or sequins to decorate the outside of a colorful round ornament
 - Use markers (not included) to draw on an ornament
 - Glue ribbons or scraps of cloth (not included) around an ornament
 - Put the nativity ornament kit together and use it for Christmas



3. Add an ornament to the tree each day of Advent, looking up the reference in a Bible. Talk together about what this name means and how it applies to Jesus.
4. Throughout the season, as you learn more about the ways Jesus is described, talk as a family about what you have learned about Jesus. Celebrate Christ's birth, remembering the many ways Christ touches us.

JESUS CHRIST

DATE	NAME	SCRIPTURE
Dec. 1	The Word	John 1:1
Dec. 2	The Vine	John 15:5
Dec. 3	Son of God	John 1:34
Dec. 4	The Way, the Truth, the Life	John 14:6
Dec. 5	Lamb of God	John 1:29
Dec. 6	Savior	John 4:42
Dec. 7	Alpha and Omega	Revelation 22:13
Dec. 8	Light of the World	John 8:12
Dec. 9	Redeemer	Isaiah 59:20
Dec. 10	Bright Morning Star	Revelation 22:16
Dec. 11	I Am	John 8:58
Dec. 12	The Good Shepherd	John 10:11
Dec. 13	Bread of Life	John 6:35
Dec. 14	Emmanuel	Matthew 1:23
Dec. 15	Son of David	Matthew 1:1
Dec. 16	Holy One of God	Mark 1:24
Dec. 17	Living Water	John 7:38
Dec. 18	Messiah	Mark 8:29
Dec. 19	King of the Jews	John 19:19
Dec. 20	Servant	Matthew 12:18
Dec. 21	King of Kings	Revelation 19:16
Dec. 22	Prince of Peace	Isaiah 9:6
Dec. 23	Teacher	John 13:13
Dec. 24	Resurrection and the Life	John 11:25
Dec. 25	Jesus	Matthew 1:21