



# Advent

AT HOME

A 4-SUNDAY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL



MAKING DISCIPLES. DEVELOPING LEADERS.

*Advent at Home: A 4-Sunday Advent Devotional Journal*

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# Intro

*What does Advent mean?*

The word advent means “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.”<sup>1</sup> Advent is a special time of year when we celebrate Christ. After all, the most “notable person” who ever lived was Jesus and one of the most notable events in history was his birth. Advent is also a time for believers to look forward to Jesus’ second coming—the promise that Jesus will one day return to make all things right and establish God’s Kingdom on earth forever.

Basically, Advent means that for an entire month we get to celebrate Christ’s arrival on the very first Christmas and anticipate the promise of Christ’s return!

This Advent devotional journal is designed to help prepare your heart to celebrate and receive Jesus this Christmas. Each Sunday, we’ll focus on a different reason to celebrate: *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*.

## How It Works

This book has four Sundays worth of devotions and activities to help you focus on Christ as you journey through the Advent season.

You’ll have an opportunity to see the nativity story with new eyes, study the Bible with engaging tools, dig deeper into the heart behind a favorite Christmas carol, and take on challenges that help you anticipate and celebrate Christ’s arrival. Each Sunday comes with an ADVENT ACTIVITY. This is an opportunity to share what you’re learning and celebrate Advent with friends and family. We’ve also included a special Family Devotion for you to go through together on Christmas Day.

Remember, you’ll get out of this book what you put into it. The challenges you’ll encounter won’t always be easy—they’re designed to stretch you! Take a risk and use this journal to run hard toward God. When we make ourselves available to him, he’ll transform us and use us in ways that will blow our minds!

# Advent

AT H▲ME

# Hope

## 1st Sunday

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-24 (ESV)

The Book of Lamentations was written during a time when God's people had lost everything. They were far from home, enduring hardships brought on by others, and suffering the consequences of their own rebellion against God. They'd hit rock bottom as a nation and were in desperate need of some hope.

Over 2,500 years have passed since these verses were written, but we can still feel the same ways today, although we'd definitely use different words to say it! We often feel like we've lost our way. We're enduring hardships of all sorts—some that aren't our fault! And we're suffering through the consequences of our individual and collective rebellion against God. It's easy to get weighed down by all that's going wrong in the world. We're all in desperate need of some hope.

Enter Jesus.

Jesus was born to bring us the kind of hope that lasts. No matter what we've done or what's been done to us, when we put our trust in Jesus we receive God's steadfast love and endless mercy—no questions asked! Like the writer of Lamentations, when we wait expectantly for God's love and mercy, we find hope.

## **JOURNAL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

What is your heart hoping for as you begin this Advent journal?

What do you think it means that God's steadfast love and endless mercy are new every morning?

How have you experienced God's love and mercy in the last few months? Take a moment to remember and thank Jesus for walking with you through these experiences.

What's one thing that is bothering you or not going right about the world right now?

Who could use more of God's love and mercy in the situation you described above?

# Advent Activity

## Letters to Jesus

Every year children all over the United States write letters to Santa. These letters almost always list ways the writer has been “good,” begging Santa to overlook anything “bad,” and no letter is complete without a wish list. As a child, you might have spent hours thinking about what you’d put on your “wish list” for Santa, hoping and dreaming that you’d wake up Christmas morning to find your #1 requested item under the Christmas tree.

Sadly, at some point, we all found out Santa’s not real. (If you didn’t already know...spoiler alert, sorry!) Thankfully, Jesus wants to hear what we’re hoping for and dreaming about. The good news is he’s very real and even more powerful than Santa!

### WRITE A LETTER TO JESUS

- Thank Jesus for some of the good things you’ve experienced this year.
- Admit a few areas where you need help to follow Jesus.
- Tell Jesus some of the things your heart is hoping for and dreaming about the most. (They can be big or small, something fun you hope to experience as a family, something about the world you wish you could fix, anything.)



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

- Invite your family to write and share their own Letters to Jesus.
- Celebrate what you're most thankful for and why.
- Ask how you can help each other follow Jesus in the year ahead.
- Share something from your wish list.
- End with prayer that God would provide his love and mercy where you're each hoping for it the most.

Congratulations! Over the past four Sundays, you've taken the deep dive into understanding what Advent means and celebrating Christ's arrival. Remember, Advent isn't just about an event that took place 2,000 years ago. It's a reminder that Jesus is coming back one day. While we wait, he's given us everything we need—hope, peace, joy, and love—to follow him and share him with the world.

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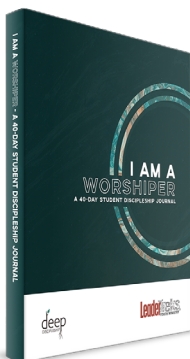
We Wish You A  
**Merry Christmas**

# KEEP GOING!

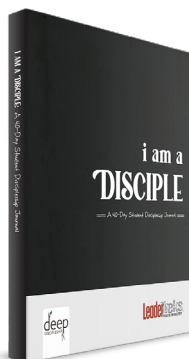
Check out these journals from the "I Am" series, designed to help you go deeper in your walk with Jesus.



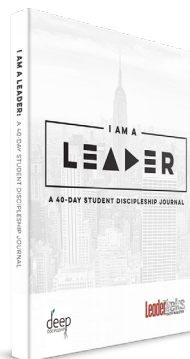
**I AM  
NEW**



**I AM A  
WORSHIPER**



**I AM A  
DISCIPLE**



**I AM A  
LEADER**

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