

ADVENT

HOPE · PEACE · LOVE · JOY

Family Guide



WEEK ONE:

Hope...

"I hope I get a cell phone for Christmas" was heard over and over during Thanksgiving. Tucker had pointed out, taken a screen shot, even saved the website that advertised the phone he wanted. This was the only thing Tucker wanted for Christmas.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: *Pictures of Hope*

As a family, list or draw pictures of things friends, or people you know are hoping for this Christmas. Discuss how these things could help them share Jesus (The Hope) with others. Choose one way to share The Hope (Jesus) with a friend. As a family, plan how to carry out that act of sharing.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”

Jeremiah 33:14

Connection Questions

1. Who is The Hope of the World, and how do you know this to be true?
2. What does it look like to put our hope in Jesus?
3. Why should we not place our hope in the world?

Daily Readings

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 2:10, Luke 2:12, Matthew 1:21, Acts 5:31

WEEK TWO:

Love...

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Make a List & Check it Twice

As an adult or child, it is always a good idea to make a list of ways that God has shown His love to you. Draw one line down the vertical line dividing the page into six boxes. In each box, draw a picture (yes, even you adults!) of one way that God shows His love to you. Pray, thanking God for His unconditional love.

One verse says all.

One basic need that we all share as humans is to be loved. By our family. By our friends. How? Unconditionally. What an overwhelming reality, though, to be told in Scripture that you are unconditionally loved by the Creator of the universe!

A second need is to have the assurance of where each of us will spend eternity. And, as only God can do, in this same, small verse we

are told that because of God's love, He sent Jesus to die for our sins. By trusting in what He did on the cross, we can believe and have the assurance of being a part of God's forever family!

“*For 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

Connection Questions

1. Who loves you more than anyone else, and how do you know this?
2. What does it mean to love someone unconditionally?
3. How can we show our love to God on a daily basis?

Daily Readings

**Luke 1:28, Luke 1:30, Luke 1:31
Luke 1:32, John 1:14, Matthew 1:22-23**

WEEK THREE:

Joy...

Joyful Stomach

Someone once told me that joy was the feeling of smiling in your stomach. Joy isn't just a smile or something you feel when you hear a funny joke. Joy is a happy feeling that comes from inside of you. People who believe in Jesus experience true joy. Jesus gives joy. Joy is knowing that Jesus loves you and that you can always depend on Him. Jesus has always been and will always be the true source of joy.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Joyful Pancakes

A family favorite meal for many is when you eat "breakfast for supper." For supper tonight prepare pancakes in the shape of the letters J, O, Y. Don't worry, they won't be perfect! As your family enjoys their supper, talk about things that brings you joy. Remind the family that these earthly things might make them happy for a little while, but the joy we receive from Jesus will always last.

“*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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David as Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”*

Luke 2:10-11

Connection Questions

1. What are things that make you happy? What are things that make you joyful?
2. How do you think the shepherds felt when the angel told them about Jesus' birth?
3. What are ways you can spread joy to those around you?

Daily Readings

Luke 2:1-3, Luke 2:405

Luke 2:6-7, Romans 15:13

II Corinthians 9:15, Psalm 29:11

WEEK FOUR:

Peace...

Jesus gives us peace

Peace. That's an interesting word. Do you know what it means? Peace is the feeling of being safe and secure. You may feel a sense of peace when you are sitting near your family. You may feel a sense of peace when you are outside. True peace is trusting God to take care of your needs in any situation. A long time ago, God blessed the world with peace through the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Jesus allows us to have peace in our lives because He is the Savior of all the world. God, thank you for blessing us with Jesus.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: *Peaceful Places*

Bring a piece of paper and a pencil to the table for one of your meals as a family. After you have talked with your family about any daily things everyone would like to share, ask everyone to brainstorm places they think are peaceful. Some ideas might be sitting on the beach, hiking through the mountains, or sitting somewhere while reading a book. Help each of your family members to think about where they feel peaceful. Write each of those ideas down on the sheet of paper. Remind everyone that true peace is trusting God to take care of your needs in any situation. Ask what the difference is between a peaceful place and the peace that God offers. Explain that being in a peaceful place is only a temporary peace. God's peace lasts forever.

“

May the lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!”

Psalm 29:10

Connection Questions

1. Who is the Prince of Peace?
2. Explain what it means to receive a peace that surpasses all understanding. How do we receive such peace?

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Jesus...

Jesus is the only reason

Wow! Christmas is so exciting – presents, food, and family. So much to be excited about. Have you ever thought about what Christmas was like 2,100 years ago? Probably not, because 2,100 years ago, Jesus wasn't born yet. There was no Christmas. Today, remember that we celebrate Christmas because we have a reason to celebrate. We celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Immanuel – God with us! Don't get so caught up in the hustle and bustle that you forget to celebrate Jesus – the only reason for the season.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Focus on Jesus

Reflect on the first Christmas as a family. Sometime today, gather around the fire or around the coffee table and read Luke 2:1-20 from your Bible. Take time to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Ask your kids to name reasons why they are thankful for Jesus and the peace that God offers. Explain that being in a peaceful place is only a temporary peace. God's peace lasts forever.

“

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth and laying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:11-14

Connection Questions

1. What makes Jesus' birth so special and unique?
2. In what ways do you feel the love of Jesus in your heart?



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