



KIDS ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
HE SHALL BE CALLED



Redeemer
Kids

Dear Families,

Merry Christmas from Redeemer Kids! We are so excited to welcome and celebrate the Advent season with you. Our desire is to provide an opportunity for you to grow in faith as a family while we await and celebrate the birth of our Savior! To that end, we have created an Advent booklet to help you engage in the beauty and joy of this season.

Included in the booklet you will find a weekly family devotional with discussion questions and activity ideas, with additional activities in the back.

We sincerely hope this helps your family focus on the comfort and joy the coming of our Savior brings. He is our Immanuel and has dwelt among us!

Please let us know if you have any questions and most importantly, we are here to support you and pray for you!

Merry Christmas and a special Advent season to you!

In Christ,
The Redeemer Kids Team

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Introduction to Advent

Advent means 'arrival'. When a mommy has a baby in her tummy/in her womb and the time starts getting closer for the baby to arrive everyone gets excited for a new little baby, and some of you might have experienced that with a little brother or sister! Advent is like the arrival of that baby. Advent is a word to describe Christmas because we're celebrating the arrival of Jesus Christ!

The Old Testament contains many words from prophets who often talked about God's promises. There is a special word we use for God's plans and promises that are told to us in the Bible. Do you know what that word is? Prophecy.

God used prophecy, like Isaiah 9:6, to share His plans and promises to give people hope. He wanted them to know that He was in control, He had a plan, and He was with them. The nation of Israel waited a long time for the Messiah. One of their prophets named Isaiah wrote this special description of the Christ that was to come. Listen carefully to the names that he gives:

For unto us a Child is born. To us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

This was written roughly 750 years before Christ came to earth as an infant. Israel was in a state of destruction and turmoil. Isaiah was offering hope of what was to come. Some good news for a weary people.

During the next 4 weeks of advent, we will be looking at the names of Jesus.

Week 1: Wonderful Counselor

Week 2: Mighty God

Week 3: Everlasting Father

Week 4: Prince of Peace

Week 1 “ And his name shall be called ... Wonderful Counselor”

Who do you look to for counsel/advice? While they might be good listeners and even have great advice, they are human and not all-knowing. Who we go to for counsel matters a lot!

This Messiah prophesied about --fulfilled in Jesus -- would be a wonderful counselor.

Wonderful. We use this word a lot, so it loses the impact of its meaning. It is not just super great; it is FULL of WONDER. It is astonishment. It is incomprehensible.

A counselor is an advisor. Someone who knows what they are talking about. A veteran and expert who you can trust to give you sound advice. Someone who can say, Keep your eyes on me. I know what will happen, so follow me. Watch me, and do what I do.

In Jesus, we have the perfect, full-of-wonder counselor. He was born in the flesh and knows what we are going through and what it is like to be tempted and to suffer. But He is also God. He is the one who IS ALL and KNOWS ALL. The one who was there at the beginning of time and has seen it all. The one who can never lead us down the wrong path. The one who always shines the light for us to find our way out of any situation. The one who is full of love and compassion and truth.

Take turns reading the following truths about Jesus...

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. John 14:6a

in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Jesus tells us to SEEK FIRST His Kingdom, and His righteousness and all the other things we worry about will be given to us accordingly (Matthew 6:33).

We need to get in the habit of going FIRST to the Wonderful Counselor. When things are hard, scary, painful, uncertain, confusing, we need to get on our knees and spend quality time in prayer and conversation with Jesus. We need to open our Bibles and let God’s Word and truth speak to us. And we need to do this before we go to our friends, post on social media or seek

other counsel. Family and friends are so valuable, but we need to recognize who the wonderful counselor is in our lives.

Discussion Questions

- Who do you look to for counsel/advice? Your parents, your best friends, your pastor? Take turns sharing.
- What does Wonderful Counselor mean?
- Why is Jesus wiser than anyone?
- How do we talk to Jesus?
- What can we do to help us daily make an appointment with our Wonderful Counselor? Brainstorm some ideas together.

Family Activity Ideas

- Create a paper chain for the Christmas tree.
- Look outside for items to make an elegant winter centerpiece.
- Read the Christmas Story from the Bible.
- Plan 3 random acts of kindness.

Week 2 “ And his name shall be called ... Mighty God”

Isaiah describes the Messiah as Mighty God! It means that, even though Jesus made himself weak, nothing and nobody is stronger than him. He created us and we can trust him to be our strength and to give us abundant life!

Here we see the deity of Jesus, the promised Messiah. He was no ordinary human born to man. He was the Son of God. But He also was and is God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1,14

One definition of MIGHTY is, “possessing great and impressive power or strength.” Not only is Jesus the Wonderful Counselor, but he is also powerful and mighty enough to do what He says He will do.

This word might is also used in military settings...a warrior word. Jesus can and will defeat Satan. Jesus fights for us!

Look at what some of God’s might can do...

Speak the world into existence

Conquer death

Heal

Forgive

Restore

Redeem

Answer prayers

Calm the wind and sea

Liberate

Bring order out of chaos

Love unconditionally

Can you think of any other mighty things Jesus can do?

He can do incredible things, and He can also CHANGE US on the inside. He has the power to work in us and change our fear into fierceness, our pain into purpose, our doubt into doing, and so much more.

He not only saves us, but He makes us new and whole and useful for His kingdom. Something only a Mighty God could do.

Discussion Questions

- Who or what comes to mind when you hear “mighty?”
- Where was Jesus when the world was created?
- At Christmas did Jesus come to earth showing off his power?

Family Activity Ideas

- Decorate your bedroom door for Christmas.
- Host a kid’s cookie swap.
- Read a Christmas book.

Week 3 “ And his name shall be called ... Everlasting Father”

Isaiah describes the Messiah as Everlasting Father! A good father loves and provides for his family. Jesus came to show us our Heavenly Father so that we can be children of God and experience love that will never ever run out.

Jesus is called Everlasting Father.

Everlasting in terms of TIME, there from the beginning and there for eternity. Everlasting in terms of UNCHANGING, He is consistent with no variation in character.

And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” Hebrews 1:10-12

His name is also Father. We are His sons and daughters. We are part of the family. A special bond and blessing.

Some of us may have a fabulous father of our own. Others may have a father who wasn't around or wasn't very loving. Jesus demonstrates to us what kind of father our God is in the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32).

And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. Luke 15:20-24

We have a Father who, despite our mistakes and even our outright sin, loves us. A Father who eagerly awaits us to come to Him. A Father who can't wait to celebrate with us.

Yes, He even sometimes disciplines us as a good father should, but only – and always -- because He loves us and He knows what is best for us.

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11

We have an Everlasting Father...always there, always has been...protector and provider...unlimited forgiveness...unwavering love...waiting to celebrate with us for eternity.

Discussion Questions

- How many things can you count on with certainty? Are there any things or people that are unwaveringly consistent, that never change, that will be there for all time?
- Why do you think that Isaiah describes the Christ as a Father?
- What does everlasting mean?
- Can the love of Jesus ever run out?
- Will Jesus ever stop loving you?
- How can we share that love with others?

Family Activity Ideas

- Create a Christmas shirt.
- Shop for a new Christmas ornament.
- Make paper snowflakes.

Week 4 “ And his name shall be called ... Prince of Peace”

Isaiah says that the coming Messiah would be the Prince of Peace! God gave his son as a peace offering. God gave us his son as a gift that we should receive by faith. Wherever Jesus rules, he brings perfect peace!

Peace is something we all want but is so hard to get. Both externally in a world filled with conflict, war, violence, political tension, lack of unity; and internally...in our soul and daily lives. The world is lacking internal and external peace, despite advancements, technology, more communication, secular counselors, and shelves full of self-help books.

When the birth of Jesus is announced by the angel to the shepherds, these words are proclaimed:

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 2:13-13

But, peaceful doesn't mean easy. We are never promised easy. In fact, we are told to expect trouble, tribulation, trials, and suffering (John 16:33, James 1:2). But we ARE promised help. And in this, we can have peace.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

We go to our Wonderful Counselor, who is Mighty and Holy and willing and able, who is never changing, and He will give us peace.

During His life on earth, Jesus was at peace. He knew He was always doing God's will and all God told Him to do. And He shares this peace with us if we will only reach for it.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27

Take a look at the verse immediately following our key verse in Isaiah...

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7

We must consistently reach for the peace available to us by seeking first the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Discussion Questions

- What are the names of Jesus that Isaiah spoke about?
- How does knowing Jesus give us peace?
- How do we receive peace?
- What keeps peace at a distance and so hard to obtain? Where/when do you feel the least at peace?

Family Activity Ideas

- Build a gingerbread house from graham crackers.
- Watch Charlie Brown's Christmas.
- Create Christmas cards.
- Camp out in the living room.

Additional Activity Ideas

Popsicle Stick Christmas Trees

Here's what you'll need to make these ornaments:

3 popsicle sticks (one with about 1" cut from the end of it)

1" x 1" square of brown card stock

A star cut from glittery card stock

A piece of twine, approximately 6" long

Hot glue gun

Scissors and a craft/utility knife

And to decorate them, you can use whatever you have on hand!

Tiny pom poms

Sparkly pipe cleaners

Jingle Bells

Rhinestones

Buttons

Glitter



Make Gingerbread Soap

Here is what you will need:

500 g olive oil

100 g coconut oil

80 g lye

150 ml water or tea I made a chai tea for my liquid component

1/4 cup molasses

essential oils (I used ginger, cinnamon, and clove about 5ml total)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make the lye solution by pouring the lye into the chai tea or water (your choice) and stirring until the lye has completely dissolved. The solution will get very hot and will slowly cool down. As always, add your lye to your water and not the other way around!
2. Let the solution slightly cool in an area where it won't be touched. Meanwhile, mix together olive oil and coconut oil.
3. If making this soap in cold temperatures, when coconut oil is in its solid state, I recommend melting it before continuing. The remaining heat from the lye solution will slightly warm up the oils. You can also now take the time to prepare your molds as needed. If using a wooden mold, line your mold with parchment or a silicone



4. When the lye solution has cleared up and isn't too hot to work with anymore, pour the lye mixture into the oil mixture and carefully stir them together. Once you have incorporated the lye solution into the oils you can begin to mix them together with a hand blender.
5. When you reach the point in the soap making process in which your mixture gets opaque and begins to look like a thin mayonnaise, add in the molasses and essential oils. Fully incorporate all ingredients, and pour into preped molds.
6. Set the soap aside for at least 24 hours. After 24 hours have passed, or when you can unmold the soap without it deforming, carefully unmold your soap.
7. If you used a large mold, you can cut your soap into bars at this stage (or cut the soap with gingerbread man cookie cutters).
8. Leave your soap to fully harden and cure for about a month.

Notes

Be very careful when working with lye. Wear gloves and protective goggles! It's a good idea to mix the lye solution in a well-ventilated area, and avoid inhaling the fumes.

Make Cinnamon Applesauce Gingerbread Garland

Ingredients:

2 Cups Applesauce
2 Cups Cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix together equal parts cinnamon and applesauce until well incorporated and dough forms. If too sticky, add more cinnamon.
2. Roll out dough between two pieces of parchment paper to 1/4 inch thickness.
3. Cut out shapes and place them on a baking sheet. You can use cookie cutters for this!
4. Bake at 200 degrees F for 2 hours.
5. Allow the shapes to set out on a cooling rack for 24 hours to dry out completely.
6. You can use sandpaper to smooth out the edges if they are jagged once the shapes are dry.

Makes about 18 ornaments, depending on size.



Chocolate Covered Strawberry Christmas Trees

Ingredients:

12 ounces dark green candy melts (found at Amazon, Hobby Lobby or Michael's)

1 pound of strawberries, stems removed

24 Oreo cookies

White Icing

Sprinkles

Candy Stars (order them from Amazon)

ICING

2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

3 tablespoons heavy cream

Add water by the teaspoon and whisk until the desired consistency is reached. You want it to be thick like toothpaste.



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set a heat proof bowl over a small pot of simmering water on the stovetop (double boiler). Slowly melt the candy melts in the bowl, stirring occasionally. Do not allow moisture to come in contact with the candy.
2. Spoon or pipe a small amount of icing onto the top of each Oreo. This will adhere the strawberry to the cookie base.

3. Once candy melts are fully melted, turn the heat to low while you dip the strawberries using a toothpick inserted into the cut end.
4. Shake off excess candy coating gently. Using a second toothpick inserted into the pointed end of the dipped strawberry, carefully place the strawberry on top of the icing on the Oreo.
5. Decorate with sprinkles and a candy star while the candy coating is still wet. It will usually dry in about 10 minutes.

Fabric Wreath

What you will need:

Different colored fabric pieces
One long fabric strip or twine to use as hanger
White Glue
Cardboard Ring
Paint brush
One Brad

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut fabric into leaf shapes and paint with white glue thinned with water to the consistency of heavy cream.
2. Let dry, then staple the stiffened leaves to a cardboard ring. Shape extra leaves into poinsettias fastened with a center brad.

