

ADVENT CALENDAR WEEK 1

December 1 - Read Week 1 Family Devotion and do the activity.

December 2 - How did people see their food before the invention of lightbulbs? Enjoy a meal together or an evening snack by candlelight. What do you notice about using candles instead of electricity? Why do you think people enjoy eating by candlelight?

December 3 - When it is dark outside, lights and sparkles remind us to celebrate. Does your family use Christmas lights to light up your home or Christmas tree? What about glitter or tinsel? How many sparkly, reflective, shimmery, or flashing things can you find in your home? Set a timer for three minutes and see who can find the most LIGHT!

December 4 - Most of the Christmas story takes place at night. God loves working at nighttime! Many creatures on earth thrive at night, as well. They are called nocturnal animals. Look up three nocturnal animals online or in books. What features do they have in common? What do they do in the nighttime? What do they do when the sun is out?

December 5 - God often shows up in different kinds of light - a burning bush, a flaming pillar, gleaming angels in the sky -- God loves to glow at night! Lights are an essential part of nighttime safety for us. Lights help us know when to stop moving in traffic. They help us see where we are going. And lights help us avoid accidents and moving creatures. Walk outside your home or apartment and count how many safety lights you see. Do you have any lights that keep you safe at home? What holiday lights do you see outside?

December 6 - Is darkness sad or scary? Not always - because God is with people in the light and darkness. Some places on earth are dark for most of the day during the winter. Find them on a map near the north and south poles. Which people are experiencing winter right now? How do they spend their dark days? Learn about them together.

December 7 - Darkness feels cozy, especially with hot apple cider. This is easy to make, and it has a wonderful aroma! Simmer some cider on your stovetop and enjoy some together. What else do you do to feel cozy?

ADVENT CALENDAR WEEK 2

December 8 – Read Week 2 Family Devotion and do the activity.

December 9 – Some people do not have access to electricity, so it can be tough for children to do their homework after dark. Find an organization that provides solar lamps to families with children and gift them with a donation.

December 10 – Christmas is for everyone of every ability. Some people do not use light to see because their eyes do not register light. They have found other ways to navigate! Research different ways people with visual impairments explore their world. How do people with other disabilities enjoy the Christmas season? How can we be helpful to those who do not see with their eyes? How can we celebrate in a way that includes people with disabilities?

December 11 – Advent is a time of light and darkness. Both light and darkness are important parts of the season and also, of art! Light creates shadows. Light and shadows are essential to creating beautiful artwork. Can you draw or paint something that has a shadow? Try a tree or a ball first. How do you make a shadow with a pencil?

December 12 – Advent is a time of waiting and slowing down to think about life. But we are usually busy in December! Schedule a time during your day to do something slow. Read a book, write in your journal, meditate, or play with playdough. But do it verrryyyy sloooowwwlllyyy.

December 13 – When we are waiting for something good, time feels like it passes very slowly. But great things can happen over time! Take a look at some time-lapse photography online. Watch snow melt, plants grow, or life decay. Do you have a smartphone with a time-lapse function? Set it up in a sunny window for a half hour or more. What do you notice from the footage?

December 14 – List ways in which the darkness of winter blesses our lives. Thank God for both the darkness and light that we need to survive.

ADVENT CALENDAR WEEK 3

December 15 – Read Week 3 Family Devotion and do the activity.

December 16 – Jesus is the light of the Christmas story. Jesus brings hope and love to everyone who encounters him. He lights up the world! Our solar system has many planets and moons, but only one source of light. What is that source of light? How big is it? How hot is it? Are there other lights like ours? How many? Learn about the lights that help us survive. What do those lights have in common with Jesus?

December 17 – Did you know one side of the moon is always in darkness, and one side is always in the light? The moon does not have seasons, but the earth does! We have the joy of changing seasons. In this season, what are your favorite family traditions? What are your favorite movies? What are your favorite songs to sing? Listen to your favorite songs of the season, and if your family likes to sing, sing along!

December 18 – When shepherds watch over their sheep at night, they become very familiar with the stars in the sky. If you connect the dots of stars in the sky, you can find shapes – shapes that do not change. These shapes are called constellations. Can you see stars in the sky over your home? What shapes do you see? Does your grown-up recognize any famous constellations? Do you?

December 19 – Have you ever heard we are made from stardust? What does that mean? Find out how you are a beautiful mass of stardust, and then thank God for taking such great care to create us from dust.

December 20 – Sight is just one way we take in the beauty of Christmas. We see twinkling lights, we smell baking cookies, we taste apple cider...what else? Talk about the senses we share and thank God for our abilities to sense the world around us through sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch.

December 21 – Jesus called himself the “light of the world.” In what ways was Jesus a “light” when he lived on earth? In what ways is Jesus a “light” now? Create a word cloud of your ideas.

ADVENT CALENDAR WEEK 4

December 22 – Read Week 4 Family Devotion and do the activity.

December 23 – In a few days, we will all exchange moments of love and joy with each other as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Take some time to write down something you love about each person in your family and tuck it away to share on Christmas Day. When we share kind words, we share the brilliance of light and the cozy warmth of darkness.

December 24 – Attend a Christmas Eve service and prepare your hearts for Christmas Day.

December 25 – Merry Christmas! Take time to read the Christmas Family Devotion. During the week that follows, do the activity.

ADVENT CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES WITH LIGHT & DARKNESS...

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Joy to the WORLD



ADVENT CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES WITH LIGHT & DARKNESS...

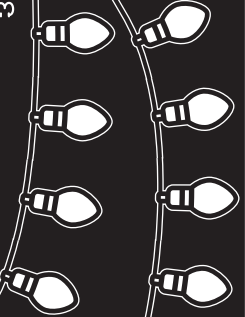
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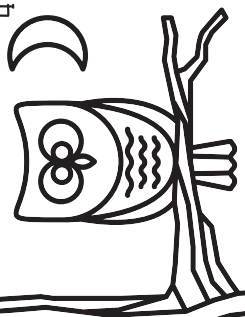
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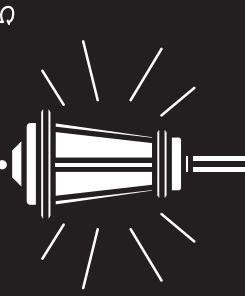
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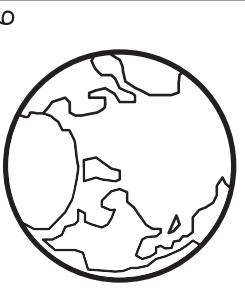
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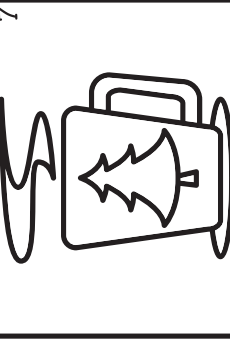
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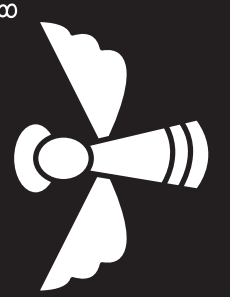
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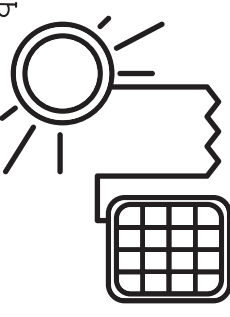
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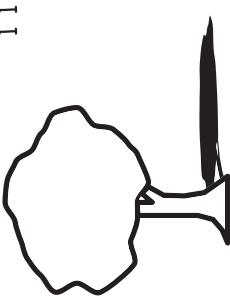
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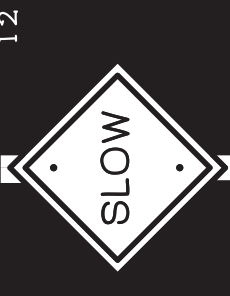
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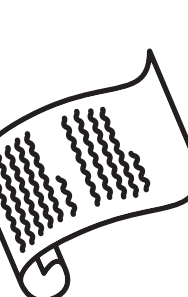
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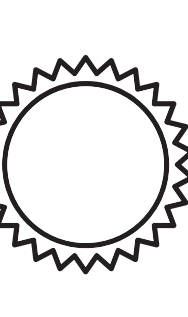
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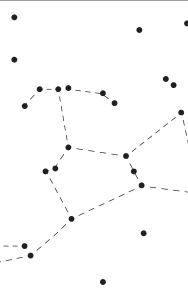
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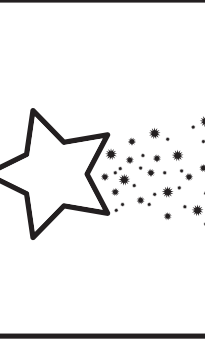
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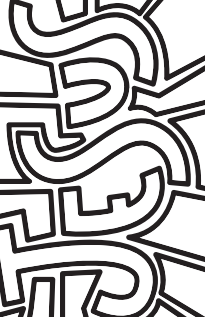
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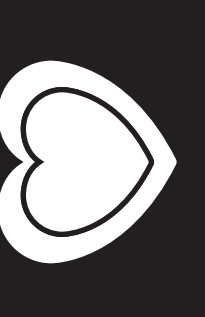
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Joy to the WORLD

