



Family Ideas for Advent: Making the Season Meaningful

Advent Wreath: Create or buy an Advent Wreath with candles. Read a bit of the Christmas story from Luke each Sunday until Christmas. The Advent Wreath has been a Christian tradition since the Middle Ages! Light an additional candle each week.

Sample Readings:

1st Sunday of Advent: Luke 1:5-25 The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

2nd Sunday of Advent: Luke 1:26-56 The Birth of Jesus Foretold / Mary Visits Elizabeth / Mary's Song

3rd Sunday of Advent: Luke 1:57-80 The Birth of John the Baptist / Zechariah's Song

4th Sunday of Advent: Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus / The Shepherds and the Angels

Christmas Tree Cozy Time: After dinner or before bedtime, dim the lights except for the Christmas tree. Snuggle up and read a section of the Christmas story each night or every Sunday until Christmas. Use a flashlight and call it a pajama party to make it extra cozy.

Play "Hide & Seek" with the Nativity Characters. Use an inexpensive set of figurines (Fisher Price edition, Hobby Lobby or Mardel). Hide a few different ones each night and talk about their important place in the Christmas story when they are found.

Advent calendar: Make or purchase an advent calendar. Start each morning by opening a flap and reading it together to stay mindful of the season throughout the day.

Practice Charity: Involve your children in choosing a way to give to others. Local ministries like Angel Tree Prison Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Mission Possible and many others. Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes, International Justice Mission and World Vision are some examples of giving globally.

Pajama Outing: One evening, let your kids get their pajamas on...then surprise them with an outing to drive and see the Christmas lights around town. Bring tumblers of hot cocoa or pick up hot chocolate on the way!

Go Star-Gazing on a clear night and talk about how big the star must have been for the wise men to follow it all the way to Bethlehem. Sky Guide is a great app to use!

Caroling: Teach your children your favorite Christmas carol and surprise your neighbors with a song and a small bag of goodies.

Improv Christmas Pageant: Everyone in the family has a special part in the story - even the pets!