



# Advent Guide

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FOR PASTORS & FAMILIES



**Southeastern**  
Baptist Theological Seminary



CENTER FOR  
FAITH & CULTURE

Advent is a time to remember and a time to look forward. We remember Christ's first coming and imagine the longing of the people of God as they awaited the Christ to come, which in turn leads us to look forward to his second coming. Advent is an expectant celebration of the 'already-not-yet'. Christ has already come, and yet we long for the day He will return again and make all things right. Both are reasons for celebration and joy.

Use this simple weekly advent guide to lead your church, family, or discipleship group through the advent season. You will notice a theme for each week that points to Christ. There are corresponding scripture passages to be read as well as suggestions of songs to sing with your congregation or family. We desire that as you celebrate Christ's first coming, you are filled with hopeful longing for his second advent.



# Hope

## Week 1

### **Songs:**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

### **Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7**

*1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

*2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

*3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

*4 For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

*5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle  
tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*6 For to 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 Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 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.*



# Peace

## Week 2

### Songs:

“The First Noel”

“O Holy Night”

### Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

*1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,*

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”*

*4 Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”*

*8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

*11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*



# Joy

## Week 3

### Songs:

“Joy to the World”

“How Low Was Our Redeemer Brought”

### Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

*26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.*

*32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

*34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”*

*35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.*





# Love

## Week 4

### Songs:

“Glory to God in the Highest”

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

### Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

*1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"



# Christ

## Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

### Songs:

“Silent Night”

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

### Scripture: Luke 2:15-20

*15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”*

*16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

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This resource is from the L. Russ Bush Center for Faith and Culture at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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