

THE ADVENT PROJECT



A CHALLENGE
TO JOURNAL, REFLECT,
AND CELEBRATE
CHRIST'S BIRTH



To:

From:

Date:







ZONDERVAN

The Advent Project

© 2021 Zondervan

Derived from material previously published in *Devotions for Christmas*.

Requests for information should be addressed to:
Zondervan, 3900 Sparks Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

ISBN 978-0-310-13642-2

ISBN 978-0-310-13641-5 (specialty)

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.Zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Any internet addresses (websites, blogs, etc.) and telephone numbers in this book are offered as a resource. They are not intended in any way to be or imply an endorsement by Zondervan, nor does Zondervan vouch for the content of these sites and numbers for the life of this book.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Art direction and cover design: Tiffany Forrester
Interior design and typesetting: Emily Ghattas

Printed in Canada

21 22 23 24 25 FR 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

THE ADVENT PROJECT



A CHALLENGE
TO JOURNAL, REFLECT,
AND CELEBRATE
CHRIST'S BIRTH

 ZONDERVAN®







Contents

<i>How to Use This Journal</i>	XI
--	----

DAY 1: What Is Advent?	1
DAY 2: A Season of Hope	4
DAY 3: Dropping Hints	7
DAY 4: A Christmas List	10
DAY 5: Surprise Packaging	13
DAY 6: Gift Tags	16
DAY 7: Christmas Letters	19
DAY 8: The Journey to Bethlehem	22
DAY 9: Home for the Holidays	25
DAY 10: The Aroma of Christmas	28
DAY 11: Seated at the Table	31
DAY 12: Holiday Traditions	34
DAY 13: Real Christmas Trees	37
DAY 14: The Perfect Gift	40
DAY 15: Joy to the World	43
DAY 16: An Ordinary Christmas	46
DAY 17: A Humble Christmas	49
DAY 18: Holiday Memories	53
DAY 19: Filling Our Plates	56

DAY 20: Christmas Lights 59

DAY 21: Christmas Caroling 62

DAY 22: Peace on Earth 65

DAY 23: Unwrapping the Mystery 68

DAY 24: Holy Anticipation 71

DAY 25: A Savior Is Born for You 74

DAY 26: Christmas Stockings 77

DAY 27: Pure as New Snow 81

DAY 28: The Season Continues 84

DAY 29: A Cup of Hot Cocoa 87

DAY 30: Cradle to Cross 90

DAY 31: New Beginnings 93



How to Use This Journal

*Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.*

LUKE 1:68

It's the most wonderful time of the year. As we wrap up the leftovers from Thanksgiving, we can't help but look ahead to the start of the Christmas season. With so many presents to buy, decorations to put up, and treats to make, it's easy to get carried away with all the activity happening. It's easy to forget why we celebrate Christmas in the first place.

If you're looking for a way to meaningfully celebrate the true reason for the season, then this book is for you. It's a tool to help you intentionally, biblically, and joyfully prepare your heart for the season of Advent—and the coming of our Savior.

You can begin The Advent Project when Advent starts, four Sundays before Christmas, or you can start it on December 1 and let it carry you through the final month of the year. Each day invites you to do a short reading and then respond to journaling prompts and thought-provoking questions. These cues, modeled in Scripture, will allow you to step aside from the hustle and bustle for a few moments so you can better hear God's still, small voice and connect with Him.

The holiday season is special, and it always goes by so fast. This Christmas, be intentional with how you celebrate. Take time to savor the moments, big and small, and put Jesus at the center of your holiday, where He belongs.







DAY 1

What Is Advent?



*The true light that gives light to everyone
was coming into the world.*

JOHN 1:9

There are certain signals that reveal Christmas is on its way. Coffee shops add peppermint mochas to their seasonal menus. We start making lists of gifts to buy, and retailers set up elaborate displays to entice us to buy even more. With so much clamoring for our attention, sometimes it's a challenge to remember the true reason for the season of Advent.

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival.” It's a season of preparation, not for extra expenses or family gatherings, but to remember the Christ child who came to live among us to secure our redemption. It is a time to pause and cherish God's most precious gift to us.

Advent is also the anticipation of Christ's return at the Second Coming. When we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we're honoring the sacrifice He made for us too. Gathering around the manger is only part of it. We also need to journey to the foot of the cross.

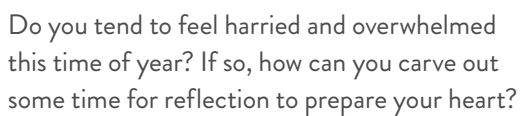
So while you might still get swept up in all the hurried activity of the Christmas season, be intentional this year to take time during Advent to prepare your heart. Remember that God laid aside His glory to become human because of His great love for you, and He will also return one day to restore glory to His people. There are few truths in this world that can be more wonderful, more exciting than this.



What kinds of things mark the start of the Christmas season for you?



Is celebrating Advent part of your traditions? If not, how can you make it a special part this year?



DAY 2

A Season of Hope



I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 15:13 NLT

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, but even without a calendar it's easy to know when it starts because of the Advent wreath. Many churches have a large, beautiful wreath near the front of the altar, and when the season of Advent begins, the first candle in the Advent wreath is lit.

The first Advent candle, known as the Prophet's Candle, represents hope. Throughout the Old Testament many prophets, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah they knew would come. None of them knew when God's promise of a Savior would be fulfilled, but they kept trusting in God, because He is always faithful.

We all have things we're hoping for. Some of them we can write on our Christmas list, and maybe they'll appear under the tree. Other things we bring to God in prayer. But sometimes it's hard to stay hopeful when the thing you're waiting for isn't happening.

As we begin this season of Advent, let's embrace this time of hope. No matter what our circumstances look like, we know—just like the prophets knew—that God is faithful and good. He loves us, and He wants to draw us closer to Him. We can let go of our worry, stress, and envy, because our hope is in Him.



What are you hoping for this holiday season?



Can you think of a time when something
you'd been hoping for finally happened?



What do you do when you feel
your hope start to waver?

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 18 horizontal dotted lines.

