

ADVENT

November 29, 2020

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Isaiah 64:1-9](#); [Mark 13:24-37](#)

REFLECT: Advent is from the Latin word for “coming” and historically Christians celebrated both the coming of Christ as a baby and the anticipation of His 2nd coming. Compare and contrast the anticipation of the Old Testament Israelites with Jesus’ words concerning His return. How will you anticipate and celebrate both His first coming and His 2nd this Advent season?

PRAY: Use this traditional prayer to lead you into a prayer of anticipation and longing for Jesus.
Unexpected God, your advent alarms us. Wake us from drowsy worship, from the sleep that neglects love, and the sedative of misdirected frenzy. Awaken us now to your coming and bend our angers into your peace. Amen. (Advent prayer from the Revised Common Lectionary)

PRACTICE: Take a step toward bringing hope to the Erie area. Find more information at www.hopefor2021.com.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LEARN: [The History of Advent](#) from The Gospel Coalition.

LISTEN: Discover new music for Advent- explore [The Hope Collection](#) from Because of Grace.

Day 2- HOPE

READ: [Isaiah 9:2-7](#); [Romans 5:1-5](#)

REFLECT: What is your definition of hope? What was the hope of the Israelites in the Old Testament? Where is our hope found today? How can your hope grow in this season?

PRAY: Use this traditional prayer to lead you into a prayer of hope in Jesus. *God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.* (Advent prayer from the Revised Common Lectionary)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: Discover more on [The Meaning of Hope](#) in Isaiah with this podcast episode from the Bible Project’s Tim Mackie.

Day 3- PEACE

READ: [Isaiah 40:1-11](#); [2 Peter 3:8-15](#)

REFLECT: When all of life is a storm, where do you find peace? Read Isaiah's and Peter's words- how do they bring peace to those weary with waiting? The Biblical definition of peace (*shalom*) is wholeness or completeness. Why is perfect peace found only in Jesus?

PRAY: Use this traditional prayer to lead you into a prayer of peace in Jesus. *God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us and bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (Advent prayer from the Revised Common Lectionary)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [2020 Has Felt Like Advent All Year](#) by Caroline Cobb

Day 4- JOY

READ: [Isaiah 61:1-11](#); [Luke 1:46-55](#)

REFLECT: Make a list of all the reasons you find in Isaiah 61 and in Mary's Song to rejoice in Jesus, the promised Messiah, and His Kingdom. Which reasons pierce you most deeply? Does your heart, does your life, reflect His heart for a world in great need?

PRAY: Use this traditional prayer to lead you into a prayer of joy in serving Jesus. *God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (Advent prayer from the Revised Common Lectionary)

PRACTICE: Take a step toward sharing the joy of Jesus to the Erie area. Find more information at www.hopefor2021.com.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: [Joy to the World](#) by For King and Country- how will your "heart prepare Him room"?

Day 5- LOVE

READ: [Psalm 89:1-52](#); [Romans 5:8](#)

REFLECT: How has Jesus put God's steadfast love and faithfulness on display? What has it meant for you that God loved you so much He sent a Savior? What does God's great love mean for your neighbor, for your political opponent, for your colleague, for your boss, for "those" people in "that" place who do "those" things? How does your life reflect His love to a world in great need?

PRAY: Use this traditional prayer to lead you into a prayer of love for Jesus and others. *God of promise, you have given us a sign of your love through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who was promised from ages past. We believe as Joseph did the message of your presence whispered by an angel, and offer our prayers for your world, confident of your care and mercy for all creation. Amen.* (Advent prayer from the Revised Common Lectionary)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WORSHIP: Open your hands and heart to receive more of Jesus this season- Find a new favorite version of [O Come O Come Emmanuel](#).

Want more Advent content?

WATCH: JD Greear has a new [Advent video series](#) with study guides and family guides on RightNow Media [Sign up for a *free* account [here](#).]

STUDY: [She Reads Truth](#) and [He Reads Truth](#) provide free online, daily reading plans year-round with a special Advent focus for this season.

LEARN: Explore the words hope, peace, joy and love with the Bible Project's [Advent series](#).

MORE: [KeepingAdvent.com](#) is a non-denominational website with lots of information and resources for the season.