



ADVENT CHRISTMAS WEEK 3 – JOY

## BEST USE

As a way to anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus and recapture the tradition of Advent in your home this Christmas season

## SPIRITUAL VALUE

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin word that means *coming* or *arrival*. For centuries the Church has celebrated the four-week Advent season by lighting candles in a wreath and reflecting on the coming of Jesus as told in Scripture. The circle of the wreath represents God's never-ending love for us, the evergreens represent Christ's gift of eternal life and the candles announce Jesus as the Light of the World.

## ADVANCE PREPARATION

Use the wreath you purchased from FAITH. Arrange it in the center of your table throughout the Christmas season. Use this Advent activity to guide your family through a brief moment of reflection during a meal or bedtime snack one night each week.

## LIGHT THE THIRD CANDLE

Before eating, light the third candle in addition to the first two. Many different Christian traditions have used different colored candles (white, blue, purple, red). The color of the candles does not matter. Just like when we take Communion at home during virtual worship, the remembrance is what is important, not the actual make-up of the elements. Consider taking turns lighting the candles and reading the verses each week.

## READ

**Luke 2:10-11** – *But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

## EXPLAIN

The third week of Advent is *Joy*. This verse is from the story of Jesus’ birth. The angels appeared to the shepherds in the fields nearby to announce that a baby had been born in a manger. The angels describe Jesus’ birth as “good news of great joy,” because He came to be our Savior! The Bible tells us that right after they announced this news to the shepherds, thousands of angels appeared and sang glory to God because Jesus had been born.

## DISCUSS

- *Joy* means *happy, delight or rejoice*. What are some things that bring us joy at Christmas? (family, gifts, parties, etc.)
- Why did the angels say that the news of Jesus’ birth is great joy? (Because he came to be the Savior of all people.)
- The Christmas carol *Joy to the World* includes the line, “let every heart prepare Him [Jesus] room.” Have you prepared room in your heart for Jesus by trusting in Him as your Savior? Have we prepared room in our Christmas activities for Him?

## PRAY

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus who came to be the Savior for everyone who trusts in Him. Help us to remember that Jesus came to save us and help us to share the great joy of this good news with one another. Amen.