

# Advent Experience Kit

WEEK BY WEEK



## ADVENT STARTS HERE

With you. Surrounded by family. If you need a minute for everyone to gather around, that's okay. Make room, get cozy, we'll wait.

Fun fact, "Advent" means arrival. As we enter this season of waiting and expectation we know the celebration of Jesus' arrival is marked by many traditions. Just like each family can create and repeat traditions, the season of Advent will also have familiar repeated moments. Most recognizable might be the wreath that holds the purple and pink candles with the white candle in the center. Did you know those candles are used to represent Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ? We'll learn more about each in the weeks to come.

This kit will guide your family through each week of Advent. Every Sunday your family will:

- Read a passage of scripture and related devotional
- Talk about the reading and cultivate deeper relationships through the fun or thought provoking questions provided
- Work together on an activity to help highlight and lock-in the weekly lesson
- Light the candles together
- Pray as a family

You'll need...

### Every week:

- Bible
- Wreath and "candles" (made week 1)

### Week 1:

- Red and Green Paper
- Candles Activity page (3 per family)
- Markers
- Scissors
- Pen or Pencil
- Tape

### Week 2:

- Newspaper Activity Page (1 per child)
- Paper towel

- Small amount of cooking oil
- Crayons

### Week 3:

- Joy Stencil (one per child)
- White Paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Optional: dot markers

### Week 4:

- Dice Activity Page (one per family)
- Dice or Smartphone
- Pen or pencil

We can't wait to hear all about it!

Love, 2|42 Kids

## ADVENT: WEEK ONE

# Because of Jesus, we can have hope.

**First**, read Isaiah 9|2, 9|6-7, 11|1-10, 1 John 5|13-14

**Then**, ask your kids for observations: Who is the text about? What is the text saying happened or is going to happen? What themes do you notice? Were there words you didn't understand?

**Next**, utilize these discussion questions:

### Pre-elementary:

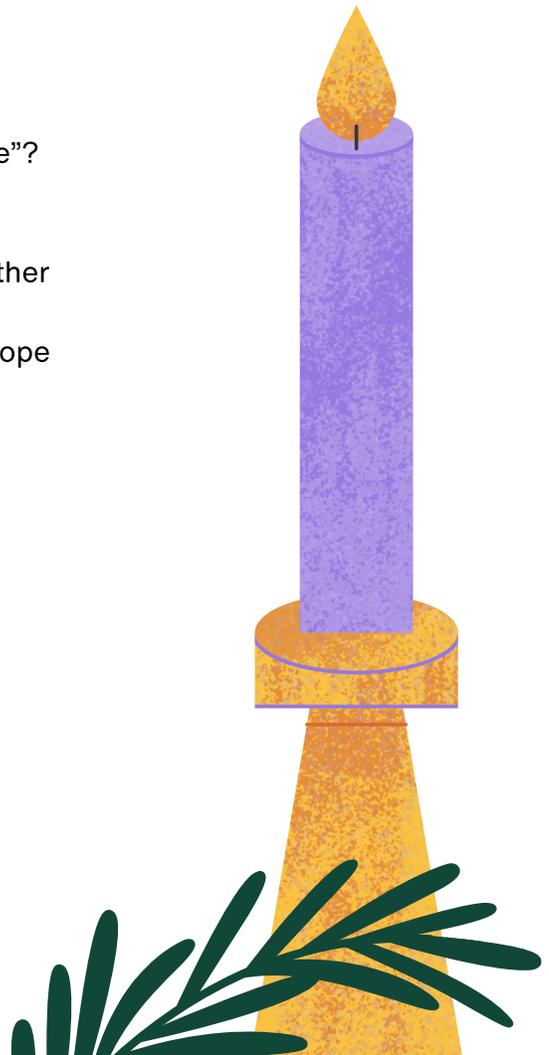
- Is it hard to wait for things you really want?
- What are some things you're excited to get for Christmas?
- Do you know what the greatest gift ever is?

### Elementary:

- How does it feel when you really want something, but it hasn't happened yet?
- Is there something you're hoping for right now?

### Students:

- What do you think of when you hear the word "hope"?
- Have you ever hoped for something and it didn't happen? How did that feel?
- Did it change how easy or hard it was to hope for other things? Why?
- Can you think of a time when you almost gave up hope but didn't? What was that experience like?



## **Read this as a family:**

We all hope for something. Maybe it's a new game or toy, a few extra Christmas cookies, or a chance to see a friend or family member soon. The people of Israel hoped for something, too—a Savior.

In the very first book of the Bible, Genesis, we read that God made everything perfectly. But it didn't stay that way. The first people, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God, and sin entered the world.

The truth is, we all make choices that separate us from God. That's bad news. But here's the Good News: God has always had a plan to bring us back to Him.

The Israelites knew someone was coming to make things right—someone who would turn fear into peace, sadness into joy, and loneliness into love. Even when it seemed like God was silent for 400 years, they held onto hope that the Savior would come.

That Savior is Jesus. We celebrate Him because He came to Earth to take away our sins. He is God's Son, and the only one who can take away sin—because He never sinned.

When we **Admit** that we've sinned, **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son and died for our sins, and **Choose** to follow Him, Jesus forgives us. Following Jesus is a choice we all must make ourselves, and it's the best choice we could ever make—because it means we get to be with Him forever.

Even after we choose Jesus, we still have hope. Our world isn't perfect. There's still sickness, sadness, and pain, but we can trust that Jesus will make everything right someday.

Just like the Israelites, we wait and hope for Jesus. He is the only one who can fix all the wrong things. And while we wait, we can celebrate what God has already done. What a wonderful gift Jesus is!

## **Together, make a wreath:**

**What you need:** markers or crayons, pencil, green and red paper (alternative: white paper that has been colored green and red), tape

**What you do:** Trace as many hand prints on the green paper as you can and cut them out. Glue them in a circle to form a wreath.

Trace circles on red paper and cut them out. Glue them around the wreath as berry accents.

Cut the candles out and color them. Although you can color them however you please, to fit the traditional advent candles, three should be purple, one should be pink, and one should be left white.

Form a tube with the rectangle part of the candle and tape it together. Fold the "flames" down into the candle. You'll pull them up to "light" them on the correct week.

Use this wreath each week as you "light" the candles.

**Finally**, “light” the first purple candle to light it and pray as a family.

**Say this:** the Israelites waited for the Messiah for 400 years without hearing anything from God. We only have to wait 4 weeks until Christmas where we’ll get to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

We can have hope and celebrate Jesus even though our world isn’t perfect. We know that Jesus came to save us from our sins, and that someday He will make everything right again. That’s the best news!

Every week, we’ll read something from the Bible and light one of these candles. Then we’ll pray together as a family. We’re going to do that together now.

This first purple candle represents Hope! We can have hope because we know that Jesus came to be our savior. Let’s pray.

*Invite your children to pray first with whatever is on their heart. Then, close your family’s prayer with the following:*

Dear God,

Thank you for the hope we have in Jesus. Thank you that we get to celebrate Him in just a few weeks on Christmas.

We pray that as we start this Advent season we will be focused on you. Even though we may be excited for all of the festive things that happen this time of year, help us to remember that the greatest part of Christmas is your son.

He is the greatest gift and we can put our hope in Him.

*Add in any prayer requests that your family has shared with you recently.*

We love you, and we ask this in your name. Amen.

## ADVENT: WEEK TWO

# Because of Jesus, we can have peace.

**First**, read Luke 1|26-38

**Then**, ask your kids for observations: Who is the text about? What is the text saying happened or is going to happen? What themes do you notice? Were there words you didn't understand?

**Next**, utilize these discussion questions:

### Pre-elementary:

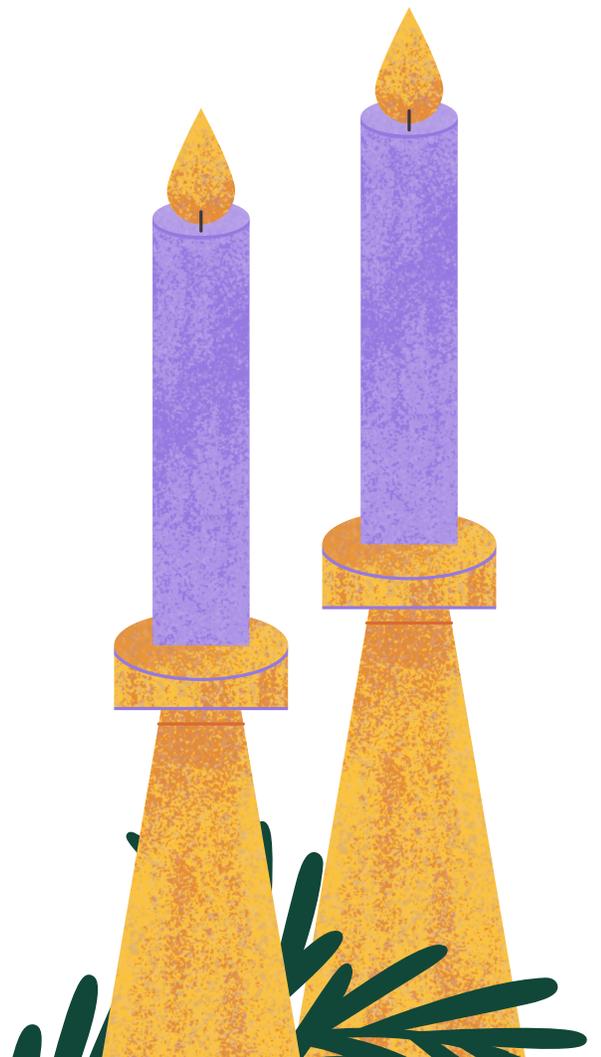
- What do you imagine an angel looks like?
- How do you think you would feel if you saw an angel?
- Would you say anything to the angel? What might you say?

### Elementary:

- How would it feel to be asked to do something really important?
- What do you think you would do if an angel showed up and asked you to do something?
- Would you say anything to the angel? What might that be?

### Students:

- How do you think you would have reacted if you actually saw an angel?
- Have you ever felt worried, unsure, or like things were out of your control?
- When you feel that way, what are some things you can focus on to help you?



**Read this as a family:**

TV, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram... we see so much every day. Sometimes it feels like these things are supposed to bring us peace. A funny video or a trending story might make us happy for a moment, but then we see bad news. Stories about people hurting, things going wrong, or sadness all around can make it feel like peace is impossible.

Mary experienced something that could have made her feel anything *but* peaceful. An angel suddenly appeared and told her she would give birth to Jesus, the Savior of the world. Mary didn't understand how everything would work. She had questions. Her future suddenly looked very different, and probably a little scary. But even in the middle of her uncertainty, Mary chose to trust God. Her peace didn't come from knowing every detail, it came from knowing God was with her.

Following Jesus doesn't mean life will always be easy. There is still sickness, sadness, and pain. But the Good News of Jesus brings something no news feed, video, or social media post can give: **true peace**.

Jesus came to take away our sins and to bring us close to God. He promises to be with us always, just like He was with Mary. That means we can have peace in our hearts no matter what is happening around us or what questions we still have.

During Advent, we remember that peace is coming and has already come. Jesus is the Light of the World, and His love is stronger than anything that makes us afraid. Even in a noisy, overwhelming world, we can trust that He has already come, He is with us now, and He will come again to make all things right.

This Christmas, the true gift isn't the presents or the lights, it's Jesus. And through Him, we have peace that lasts forever.

**Together**, create newspaper art.

**What you need:** newspaper activity page, cooking oil, crayons, paper towel

**What you do:** encourage your child to color the words on the page with crayons.

Place the activity page on some paper towels. With another paper towel, rub a small amount of cooking oil over the words on the page.

Hold the paper up to the light briefly to show your child the stained glass effect. Leave it on the paper towel to dry before hanging it in a window.

**Finally**, “light” the first and second purple candles and pray as a family.

**Say this:** No matter what we see on the news or on TV, or hear from social media, there’s something amazing we can always remember: Jesus has come to save us.

The Good News that the angel brought to Mary, is Good news for us too.

This project reminds us that we carry the best news ever with us. No matter what’s happening in the world around us, the Good News of Jesus brings us true peace.

This purple candle represents Peace! Even when the news, TV, or social media makes life feel crazy or scary, we can rely on Jesus to bring us peace. Let’s pray together.

*Invite your children to pray first with whatever is on their heart. Then, close your family’s prayer with the following:*

Dear God,

Thank you for the peace we have in Jesus. Thank you that no matter what is going on in our life, He offers us comfort.

We pray that we take time to remember the Good News of Jesus.

Help us to focus on you when we feel fear or stress. Even when we see bad news, help us to have peace. And help us to share that peace with those around us.

*Add in any prayer requests that your family has shared with you recently.*

We love you, and we ask this in your name. Amen.

## ADVENT: WEEK THREE

# Because of Jesus, we can have joy.

**First**, read Luke 1|26-38

**Then**, ask your kids for observations: Who is the text about? What is the text saying happened or is going to happen? What themes do you notice? Were there words you didn't understand?

**Next**, utilize these discussion questions:

### Pre-elementary:

- What do you imagine an angel looks like?
- How do you think you would feel if you saw an angel?
- Would you say anything to the angel? What might you say?

### Elementary:

- If you could have anything in the world for Christmas, what would it be?
- How long do you think having that gift would make you feel happy?

### Students:

- What is one of the coolest gifts you've ever received?
- How long did that gift make you feel happy?



**Read this as a family:**

God has blessed our family with so many wonderful things. We have food to eat, clothes to wear, a warm place to sleep, a church community that loves us, good friends to share life with, and we have each other. Every one of these things is a gift from God, and they bring so much happiness to our lives.

But there is one gift that is better than all the others combined. One gift that doesn't fade, break, or disappear. And that gift is Jesus.

Joy entered the world in the most unexpected way. Mary and Joseph traveled a long way to Bethlehem, tired and worn out from their journey. When they arrived, there was no room for them anywhere. Instead of a cozy bed or a comfortable space, they found themselves in a stable. It wasn't fancy or impressive. And there, in that small, quiet place, Jesus was born.

The Savior of the world didn't arrive with crowds cheering or trumpets blasting. He came as a tiny baby, wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger. But even though it looked simple, it was the most joy-filled moment in history. The world was never the same again.

Real joy doesn't come from new toys, exciting events, getting everything we want, or even the perfect Christmas. Real joy comes from Jesus—God with us. Joy that stays with us when things are good and when things are hard. Joy that fills our hearts even when life feels uncertain or overwhelming. Joy that cannot be taken away.

Jesus brings joy because He came to save us, to love us, and to be with us forever. His birth was God's promise coming true: that He would send a Savior who would make all things right again. And because Jesus came, we can have hope, peace, and joy that last forever.

**Together,** create joy art.

**What you need:** Joy Stencil Activity Page (one per child), white paper, scissors, markers (optional: dot markers instead of regular markers)

**What you do:** cut the stencils out.

Help your child hold the stencil still while they draw line starting in the middle of the page and going out towards the edge (in a sunburst pattern).

Optional: Instead of regular markers, use dot markers and have your child dot all around the stencil to make a confetti pattern.

**Finally**, “light” the first and second purple candles, as well as the pink candle and pray as a family.

**Say this:** Look at all of the lines (or dots) you made. Just like there are so many of them on the paper, there are so many things that can bring us joy. Can you name a few?

(share a few of your own)

This pink candle represents Joy! Even with all of those wonderful things to bring us joy, Jesus is the best of all of them. Let’s pray together.

*Invite your children to pray first with whatever is on their heart. Then, close your family’s prayer with the following:*

Dear God,

Thank you for the joy we have in Jesus. Thank you that Jesus can bring us joy no matter what is happening in our life.

We pray that when hard things, or stressful things, or things that make us feel sad happen, we look to Jesus for joy. And that all the good things in our life are even better because we know that Jesus brings us more joy than anything else could.

*Add in any prayer requests that your family has shared with you recently.*

We love you, and we ask this in your name. Amen

## ADVENT: WEEK FOUR

# Because of Jesus, we can love others.

**First**, read Luke 2|8-20, John 3|16-17, Romans 5|8

**Then**, ask your kids for observations: Who is the text about? What is the text saying happened or is going to happen? What themes do you notice? Were there words you didn't understand?

**Next**, utilize these discussion questions:

### Pre-elementary:

- Who shows us how much God loves us?
- What are some ways you can show someone that you love them?

### Elementary:

- What kinds of things make you feel loved?
- Can you think of ways to share God's love with others this week?
- How could you show God's love to someone who feels left out or hurt?

### Students:

- What does love mean to you?
- How is God's love different from the kind of love we see on TV or in movies?
- What are some ways you can share God's true love with people who don't know Him yet?



## **Read this as a family:**

When the Bible talks about love, it describes several kinds. There is philia, the love we have for friends, and storge, the love we have for family. But the most powerful kind of love in Scripture is agape love. It's God's unconditional love.

Agape love means God loves us no matter what. His love doesn't change based on what we do. And we know this is true because, even though everyone has sinned and is separated from God, He didn't want us to stay far from Him. Because of His incredible love, God sent Jesus.

Jesus came to take away our sin and bring us back to God forever. That's why Christmas is such Good News. The birth of Jesus is the greatest act of love the world has ever seen: God giving His Son so we could be close to Him again. Even though Jesus was born in a humble stable, His arrival changed the world and gave us a reason to rejoice.

When we put our faith in Jesus, we experience God's love personally. It fills our hearts with hope, joy, and peace—even when life is hard or confusing. God's love doesn't just help us feel good; it transforms the way we live. It teaches us to be patient, kind, and gentle with others, even when the world around us is chaotic.

Because God loves us so deeply, He calls us to love others. That doesn't mean we have to be everyone's best friend, but it does mean choosing kindness, showing respect, and helping others when we can.

We have a special challenge: to look for ways to show love to the people in our lives. Every small act of love reflects God's heart and shows them a small picture of God's love.

When we take this challenge seriously, we begin to see God's love in action. We get to share a little bit of the same love that He gave us through Jesus, and that is truly Good News for everyone

**Together,** use the dice to challenge your family to show love to those around you in big ways this season (and beyond!)

**What you need:** dice (or smartphone with dice pulled up on Google), dice worksheet, pencil

**What you do:** use the front side of the worksheet to list 6 people you could show love to outside of your immediate family (meaning they can't be sitting at the table with you). You'll need to write other things in the box so leave some room.

Let one person at the table roll the dice. Flip the worksheet over and use the ideas on the back to decide as a family how you want to show love to that person. Write what you'll do by the person's name on the front side of the worksheet.

Repeat until everyone at the table has rolled the dice or all of the people you write down have been rolled.

There is no timeline on completing this! But don't wait too long. Make a plan of when you could do at least one or two of the activities you wrote down.

**Finally**, “light” all 4 of the colorful candles and pray as a family.

**Say this:** God asks us to love the people around us. Sometimes it can be hard to show love, but there are also simple ways to do it. We can be kind with our words, helpful with our actions, or thoughtful with little surprises.

As a family, we get to practice loving others intentionally. The people on our sheet aren't just names, they're wonderful people God has placed in our lives. And when you take the time to show love to them, you are sharing a piece of God's heart.

Remember, loving others isn't about being perfect or doing everything at once. But as a family, we're going to choose to act with kindness and think of ways to make someone else's day better.

This purple candle represents Love! Jesus loves us more than anyone else could. Let's pray together.

*Invite your children to pray first with whatever is on their heart. Then, close your family's prayer with the following:*

Dear God,

Thank you for the way you love us no matter what. Thank you that you sent us Jesus, to rescue us from sin, and bring us back to you.

Thank you for the love we have because of Jesus. Thank you for all the people we love and all the people that love us. But most of all, thank you that you love them AND us even more than anybody else could.

When we feel lonely, or like we're on our own, help us to remember that you are always with us. That you love us more than anybody else could, even when we make mistakes.

*Add in any prayer requests that your family has shared with you recently.*

We love you, and we ask this in your name. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

# Christmas is just the beginning!

**First**, open gifts. Drink your coffee and soak in the morning a bit. But before everyone goes off to enjoy their gifts, tell everyone that you want to take a minute to pause and reflect as a family.

**Next**, utilize these discussion questions:

What was your favorite thing that you opened?

Were you surprised by anything you got? What?

It's fun to be grateful for new gifts. What else are you grateful for?



**Read this as a family:**

You did it! You made it to Christmas morning. Through all of the hustle and bustle, you took time to focus on Jesus and connect as a family. That's what matters most!

It may have been messy or it may have been chaotic, but we pray that through it all, you were able to find moments of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

We're so excited to see all of the ways that God uses 2026 to help your family grow closer to Him.

The coming year won't be perfect. Today probably won't be perfect! But no matter what you do to celebrate today and no matter what the next year looks like, we know this is true: God loves you so, so much that He gave you Jesus. And that's the best gift ever!

**Finally**, "light" all of the candles and pray as a family.

**Say this:** this white candle represents Jesus! He is the center of everything we have talked about together. Let's pray together.

*Invite your children to pray first with whatever is on their heart. Then, close your family's prayer with the following:*

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus! He is the most wonderful gift we can receive and we are so grateful you sent Him to be our savior. Thank you that we get to celebrate Him today.

We pray that you would use the next year to grow our family closer to you. May we focus on you and find hope, peace, joy, and love everyday of 2026.

*Add in any prayer requests that your family has shared with you recently.*

We love you, and we ask this in your name. Amen.

Merry  
Christmas

**242** KIDS



## EXTRA RESOURCES

Here are some extra ideas to help kids of all ages reflect on Jesus this season:

### Throw a Birthday Party for Jesus

Grab balloons, streamers, bake a cake, and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. Older kids can help plan the menu, decorate, or lead a short devotional about why Jesus came.

### Make Christmas Cards for People Who Need Encouragement

Create simple cards for elderly neighbors, nursing home residents, soldiers overseas, or kids in the hospital. They don't need to be fancy—just heartfelt. Older kids might enjoy designing digital cards or writing longer notes of encouragement.

### Shop for Local Organizations in Need

Ask your campus for a list of local ministries collecting donations.

### Read Nativity Storybooks Together

Explore different retellings of the Christmas story and talk about the perspectives the authors highlight.

Books we recommend:

- *Jesus Calling: The Story of Christmas* – Sarah Young
  - *A Very Noisy Christmas* – Tim Thornborough
  - *The Christmas Blessing* – Erin Guendelsberger
  - *The Christmas Promise* – Alison Mitchell
- Older kids can compare the books to Scripture or create their own short retelling.

### Decorate with a Nativity Scene

Set up a nativity somewhere special in your home.

Walk through the role of each person in the story.

Older kids might enjoy arranging the scene creatively or reading the Scriptures that connect to each figure.

### Take a Christmas Light Drive

As you enjoy the lights, talk about how Jesus is the Light of the World.

Older kids can pick favorite houses, take photos, or help create a family “light tour playlist.”

### Explore the Meaning Behind Christmas Carols

Choose a few favorite carols and read through the lyrics.

*Ask: Why do we sing these songs at Christmas? What part of Jesus' story does this song highlight?*

Older kids can look up the history of a carol or choose one to lead in family worship.

### Additional Ideas for Older Kids & Preteens

- **Serve Together:** Volunteer at a local food pantry, community dinner, or church event.
- **Create a Family Advent Playlist:** Mix worship songs, classic carols, and everyone's favorites.
- **Do a Daily Gratitude Countdown:** Write one thing you're thankful for each day leading up to Christmas.
- **Make a “Blessing Bag” Kit:** Assemble small bags with socks, snacks, and toiletries to give to people in need.

# Activity Sheet Printing Instructions:

Candles:

Print single sided on printer paper or cardstock

3 copies per family

Newspaper:

Print single sided on printer paper

1 copy per child

Joy Stencil:

Print single sided on printer paper or cardstock

1 per child

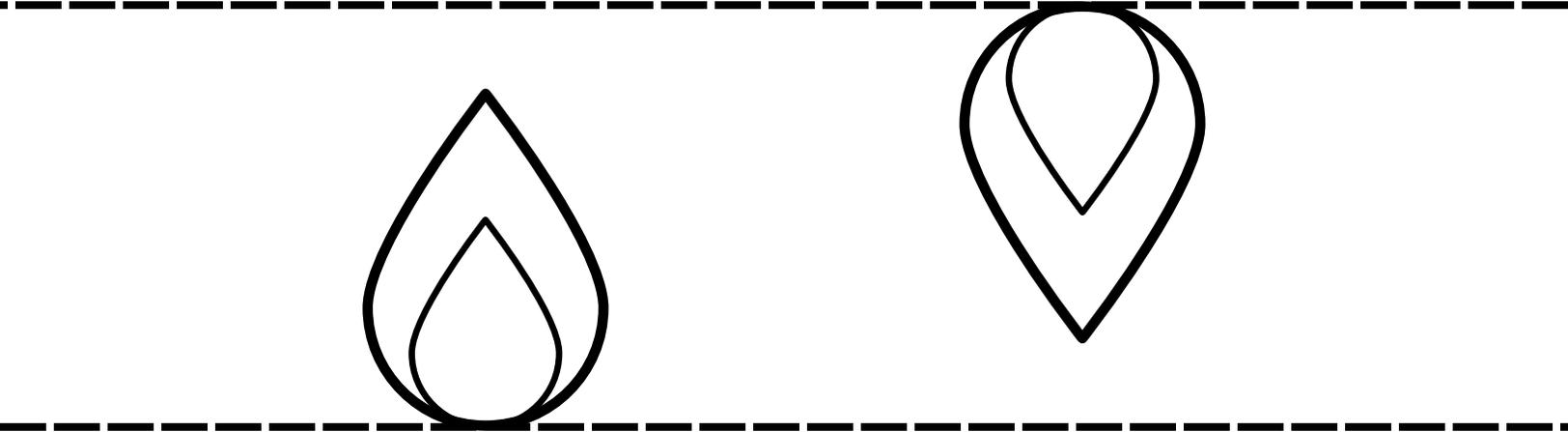
Dice Worksheet:

Print double sided on printer paper or cardstock

1 per family

Scan for craft examples:

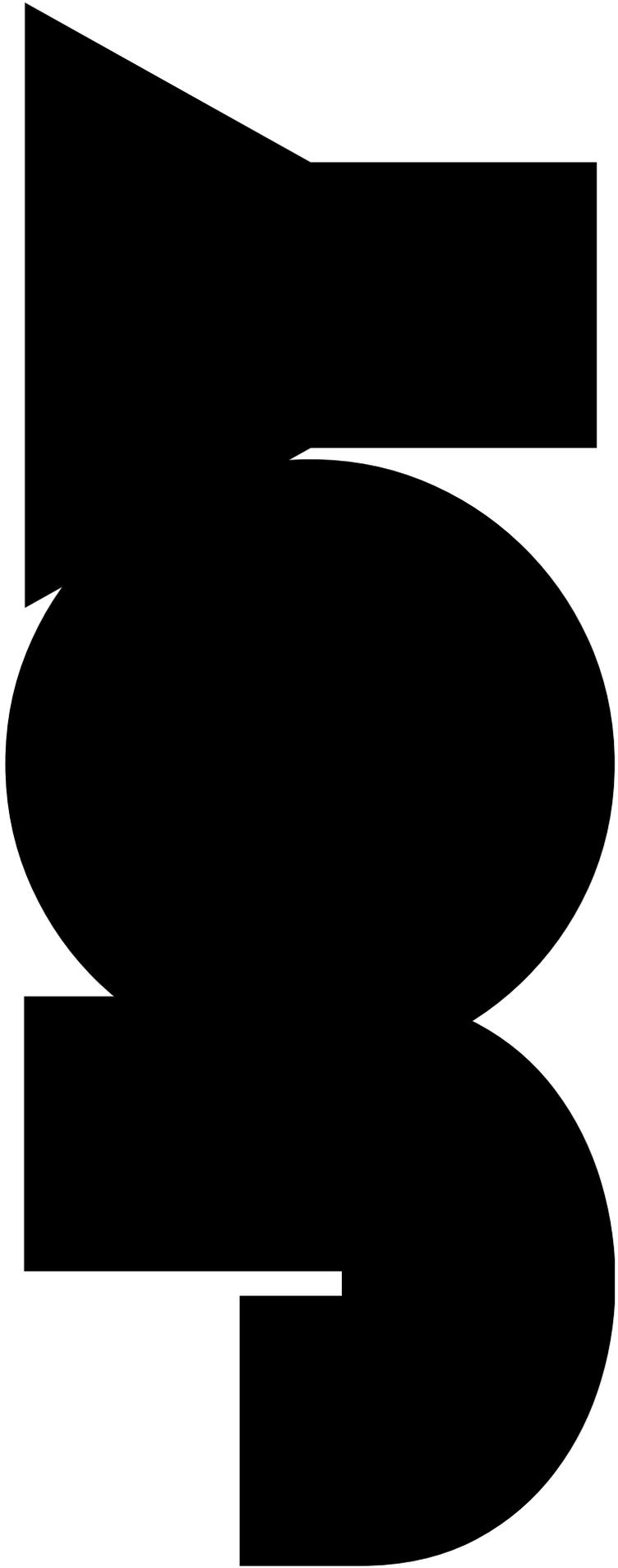




**GOOD NEWS!**

**JESUS  
IS BORN!**

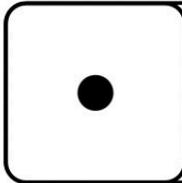
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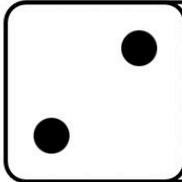


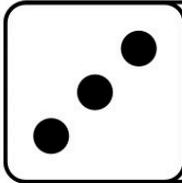
# ROLL-AND-GO BE THE CHURCH

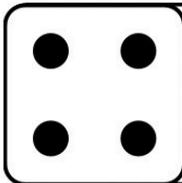
Write the name of a person you know that is not present in each of the boxes below. Each box should have a different person.

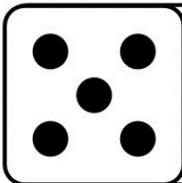
Possible options: grandparents, neighbors, friends, teachers

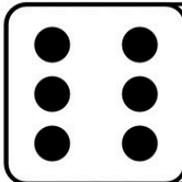
	
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**Speak Life**

- Record a short video message telling them why your family is thankful for them
- Send a voice memo praying for them
- Write a handwritten card or sticky-note encouragement

**Serve in a Simple Way**

- Offer to take out their trash or bring their cans in
- Drop off a warm drink, treat, or homemade cookies
- Rake leaves, shovel snow, or help with a small chore
- Surprise them by returning something of theirs cleaned (like a dish, toy, or borrowed item)

**Share Quality Time**

- Invite them on a short walk, a game night, or to watch a Christmas movie
- Offer to read a story to a younger neighbor or cousin
- Play a board game or video game together (older kids love this option!)

**Creative Kindness**

- Make them a mini “blessing bag” (snacks, tissues, gum, chapstick)
- Put together a simple craft or ornament and deliver it
- Make sidewalk chalk art with an encouraging message

**Meet a Need**

- Ask if there’s a way your family can pray for them this week
- Offer babysitting help (great for teens!)
- Bring a meal or a bag of groceries to someone who’s been busy or sick

**Celebrate Them**

- Create a small “You Are Loved” poster or note and leave it on their door
- Give them a “just because” gift (candy bar, hot cocoa packet, bookmark, fidget toy)
- Share a favorite Bible verse that reminds you of them