Devotionals/Activities


This booklet of daily devotions for the season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) helps you prepare your heart and mind to rejoice in God's loving gift, Jesus Christ. Each daily devotion includes a recommended Scripture reading, a Bible verse, an inspiring message, and a prayer. Suitable for purchase in large quantities. The booklet fits easily into a #10 envelope for mailing. *Note:* Also available in Large Print (ISBN 9780687658213).

*The Advent Jesse Tree: Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas*, by Dean Lambert Smith (Abingdon, 1990) ISBN 0687009081

This book offers 25 devotions for each day from December 1st to December 25th. Each devotion traces the heritage of Jesus through the stories and prophecies of the Old Testament. They are written in two versions (one for children and one version for adults) including a scripture, a story & commentary, questions to ask, a prayer, and a song.


This is a 16-page booklet that includes: two complete sets of family Advent worship; services (one especially for families with young children); Easy to follow scripts including the words to songs; Instruction to the custom of the Advent Wreath including the color of the candles and their meaning; Activities and recipes to bring families together throughout the Seasons of Advent.


The four Advent candles symbolize promise, light, love, and hope. This book provides guidelines for those who wish to adopt this meaningful tradition in the home, as well as instructions for making one’s own wreath.


Offers 29 meditations that guide our thoughts through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Each devotion explores the promises of the Messiah found in the Book of Isaiah and offers a Scripture focus and meditative discussion of related topics.


Includes ideas and activities for celebrating the days before Christmas, as well as things to do after the Christmas tree is taken down. Specific activities, including crafts, service projects, and family worship ideas, are included for each day in Advent and through the twelve days of Christmas. In addition, each day offers a Bible passage for reading together.
The Christmas season seems to get busier, more hectic and stressful. Includes five weekly chapters structured on Advent hymns that offer daily meditations, spiritual disciplines for the week, reflection questions and leader helps.

Simple blessings, scripture readings, prayers and activities enable children to participate preparing the home for the coming celebration.

Come, Lord Jesus: Daily Devotions for Advent (Concordia) Item Number: 12-4315WEB; www.cph.org
This small booklet contains inspiring daily devotions for each day of Advent. Each short devotion can be read at the beginning of the day, at the close of the evening, or any time you have a few minutes to commit to God's comfort, compassion, and forgiveness. Includes: 29 Devotions for the Advent Season, Order of Family Worship, Making Your Advent Wreath Suggestions.

Provides a scripture reading, reflection, and prayer for each day in Advent. This devotional makes each day's devotion become a link in an Advent word chain. The chain marks the passing of time as we wait for Christ's coming.

Devotions for Advent (Dept. of Christian Formation, ECC)
This guide was designed to be used by individuals, family, or friends as a way to remember and commemorate the coming of Christ into the world. This devotional contains Scripture readings, reflection, prayer, and an activity for each week of Advent. The Word document version is appropriate for at home use. If you would like to make copies for your church, it is recommended that you download the PDF version which, when copied front to back, makes a tri-fold brochure. To download, go to: http://www.covchurch.org/resource/devotions-for-advent.

In the Bleak Midwinter: Forty Meditations and Prayers for Advent and Christmas, by Herbert Brokering (Augsburg Fortress, 2008) ISBN 9780806680538
Based on Christina Georgina Rossetti's Christmas carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter," this set of forty meditations and prayers can be opened at leisure or followed as a guide to daily devotions. Either way, it is a rich and imaginative reflection on the incarnation as God's continual gift to us. The overall tone of the book shows the depth and beauty, paradoxes and perplexities of the nativity.

Families are provided with devotions and day-by-day construction of a Jesse Tree. There are symbols for children to mount on the Jesse Tree.

This kit includes everything you need to create a fun and memorable Christmas event in your church for kids K-5 and their parents. Includes Christmas music CD, Reproducible Marketing PDF's, and Editable Text Script. The DVD includes an explanation of the Christmas story and how God sent His Son to bring peace on
earth. There is a 25% discount available on Jingle Jam. The retail price is $49.99; discounted price is $37.49. When placing an order, churches need to request the special discount available in order to receive that discounted price.

Let's Make a Jesse Tree, by Darcy James (Abingdon, 1988) ISBN 0687214394
Easy step-by-step instructions for making a Jesse Tree Advent calendar, plus 25 Bible readings for family use. Children learn the Christmas story from the Bible as they add each new symbol to their Jesse Tree Advent calendar. Pattern size: 8H" x 11".

Night in Bethlehem – Starter Kit (Group Publishing) ISBN 9780764439575
This Advent experience for the church family leads participants through Marketplace Shops (e.g., stable, wreath shop, carpentry shop, pottery shop, bakery, etc.) as you experience Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth. This new edition includes family devotions, 6 new songs, follow-up and outreach tool, several new marketplace shops. The kit includes a Director’s Manual, Family Resources Sample Pack, Marketplace Projects Sample Pack.

Wangerin recreates verbal images of the events surrounding the Advent of Christ, offering a devotional journey into the heart of the Christmas season. Through rich detail and vivid images, these meditations make Christ's birth both intimate and immediate, allowing us to see Christmas from its original happening to its perennial recurrence in our hearts.

Written especially for use by parents and children for their daily family worship during Advent.

Watch For The Light: Readings For Advent And Christmas, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, et. al. (Orbis Books, 2004) ISBN 1570755418
Providing a break from the commercialized frenzy of the season, these daily Advent readings invite us to examine the deepest meaning of Christmas. Writers include: Johann Christoph Arnold, C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Philip Yancey, Madeleine L'Engle, Henri Nouwen, Kathleen Norris, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Annie Dillard, Dorothy Day, and many others.

We Light the Candles: Devotions Related to Family Use of the Advent Wreath, by Catharine Brandt (Augsburg Fortress, 1991) ISBN 0806615443
A 40-page booklet of day-by-day family Advent devotions centering around the Advent wreath and its meaning.

Creative Communications for the Parish produces a number of inexpensive devotionals. Go to: www.creativecommunications.com. Click on “Protestant” catalog and search for Advent devotionals.
Studies for Adults


This four-session DVD study invites us to worship Christ more meaningfully this Christmas by giving relationally to family, friends, and those most in need as we learn how to restore the scandal of Christmas by substituting compassion for consumption. This study pack contains the Advent Conspiracy book and DVD. Kit contains (1) Advent Conspiracy book and (1) Advent Conspiracy DVD. The story of Christ’s birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love.

Advent of the Savior, edited by Cindy Bunch (LIFEGUIDE SERIES - InterVarsity, 2009) ISBN 0830831363

On a seemingly ordinary day, in a manger in the middle of bustling, overcrowded Bethlehem, the promised Messiah slipped into the world as a tiny baby. These six sessions will introduce you to the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus, remind you of God's faithfulness and power to fulfill his promises, and draw you more deeply into the love that brought Christ to earth.


Includes brief readings inspired by the season’s carols and hymns that will redirect your thoughts to the purpose of the season: preparing for the coming of Christ. A small-group guide is also included.


The author opens up new possibilities of insight into the Scriptures of the biblical Christmas story by approaching them from the “back side” – unique starting points, creative re-telling, new “lenses,” or looking through the eyes of a not-so-familiar character. The book includes seven stories and a study guide.


This study explores the Scriptural texts of Handel’s Messiah and includes musical commentary. With four sessions on the Advent texts and six sessions on the Lenten texts, it may be offered as two seasonal courses or as one ten-week course. A recording of Messiah is recommended for class use.


Discover new light in traditional texts and seasonal themes. Find fresh perspectives on the journey through Advent to Christmas and beyond. Designed for 4 or 5 sessions of 1 to 1 ½ hours. For Lectionary and non-Lectionary churches. Sessions explore: Keeping Watch (Gospel apocalypse), John the Baptist’s Call, Prophecy Fulfilled, Birth and Epiphany Stories.


Contains four sessions, one for each week of Advent. Each session is made up of the lyrics and recorded music of a Spiritual, the historical context of that Spiritual,
reference to the related Scripture and discussion questions and suggested activities. The four Spirituals featured in *Mary Had a Baby* are: "Mary Had a Baby," "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow," "Children, Go Where I Send Thee," "Go Tell It on the Mountain."


This study explores why we celebrate Christmas and how it can change our lives forever. At the very first Christmas – the birth of Jesus – an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. The three sessions on this DVD looks at each of those purposes: 1. Christmas is a time for celebration 2. Christmas is a time for salvation 3. Christmas is a time for reconciliation The Purpose of Christmas DVD Pack includes both the DVD and The Purpose of Christmas DVD Study Guide.

*A Savior is Born – DVD study*, by Pete Briscoe (Bluefish TV) - [http://www.bluefishtv.com/Store/Adult_Small_Groups/2899/A_Savior_is_Born_with_Pete_Briscoe/f=s1&s=Savior%20is%20born](http://www.bluefishtv.com/Store/Adult_Small_Groups/2899/A_Savior_is_Born_with_Pete_Briscoe/f=s1&s=Savior%20is%20born)

In each of these four sessions, you will experience cinematic short films that capture events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. Then Pete Briscoe opens up scripture to bring us back to the roots and heart of our faith in Christ. Kit includes 4 video-driven sessions with teaching from him (approx 12 min each):

- Session 1 - Hope
- Session 2 - Peace
- Session 3 - Love
- Session 4 - Joy

1 Leader's Guide to facilitate questions and Bible study

1 Workbook

*Setting the Christmas Stage: Readings for the Advent Season*, by John Indermark (Upper Room, 2001) ISBN 0835809471

The author looks at the Christmas story as a dramatic and well-known pageant, reminding us of holidays past and present. He shows how Advent gradually moves the drama forward to the climax of Christmas. Readers will see how the stories flow together into an encounter with God in Christ. Each of the four sections contains reflections that invite connection between the biblical stories and our own spiritual journeys. Appendixes contain suggested carols and where to find them, session outlines for use with small groups, and ideas for family Advent celebrations and observances.


What if it really wasn't that hard to find more peace, more quiet, more room in your heart for the Christ child to be born? The author guides you through the hustle and bustle of Advent, and you'll come out of the four weeks centered, rested and spiritually renewed. The exercises are do-able and focus on anticipation, hope, patience and obedience. Questions and journal space are provided to help you contemplate more fully. Good for individual or small group study. (A guide for groups is included.)
The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God During Advent and Christmas (Upper Room, 2009) ISBN 0835899942

It's a time when we prepare our lives hearts, minds and spirits for the coming of the Christ child. We sweep out the corners of our hearts, cleaning up the clutter, to make space for God’s hope, peace, joy, love and presence. This book provides four weeks of guided reflection through the weeks of Advent on through Epiphany. Each day provides a quotation, scripture passage, reflection, prayer. Includes a study guide for groups.


This four-week study, appropriate for both group and individual use, provides an introduction and one lesson for each week of Advent. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, study / discussion questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week.


Group members have the chance to look at some biblical figures mentioned in passing in the story of Advent. Tamar, Ruth, Mary, Zechariah, Elizabeth, and the Magi ask questions that resonate with contemporary Christians during this season. This book examines Advent as a journey in which God seeks us at many levels of our understanding and spiritual willingness. It includes complete plans for small groups, a fifth session for the week of Epiphany, daily scripture reading and reflection questions, introduction to the spiritual discipline of breath prayer.

This bibliography was prepared by the staff of the Covenant Resource Center. While not specifically endorsed by the Evangelical Covenant Church, the above resources may be helpful as you plan for ministry. For additional assistance or suggestions, contact the Covenant Resource Center at 1-800-338-IDEA(4332) or resource.center@covchurch.org.