

# Advent Resources

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Advent Curriculum - The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not...  
for Children and their Families (John 1:5)

## Themes

Advent 1: Needing the Light  
Advent 2: Finding the Light  
Advent 3: Shining the Light  
Advent 4: Embracing the Light  
Christmas: Living the Light

## Scriptures

Advent 1: Luke 1.78-79  
By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon \*  
us, to give light to those who sit in  
darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Advent 2: Luke 12.2  
Nothing is covered up that will not be  
uncovered, and nothing secret that will not  
become known.

Advent 3: Luke 8.16  
No one after lighting a lamp hides it under  
a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a  
lampstand, so that those who enter may  
see the light.

Advent 4: Luke 15.8  
Or what woman having ten silver coins, \* if  
she loses one of them, does not light a  
lamp, sweep the house, and search  
carefully until she finds it?

Advent 5: Luke 17.21  
For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among\*  
you.

## Prayers

Advent 1 (light one candle):  
The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
Captivated by the darkness, we ignore your  
glowing ember.  
Source of light, remind us again  
that you burn in our darkness,  
even here, even now. Amen.

Advent 2 (light two candles):  
The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness has not found it.  
Intimidated by the glare, we hide from your  
warmth.  
Source of light, remind us again  
that you beckon in our darkness,  
even here, even now. Amen.

Advent 3 (light three candles):  
The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness has not comprehended it.  
Confused by the shadows, we misunderstand  
your vision.  
Source of light, remind us again  
that you blaze in our darkness,  
even here, even now. Amen.

Advent 4 (light four candles):  
The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness has not seized it.  
Compelled by the light, we embrace your  
promise.  
Source of light, remind us again  
that you shine in our darkness,  
even here, even now. Amen.

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## Children's Literature

Advent 1: "The Give-Away"  
Ray Buckley

Advent 2: "SantaKid"  
James Patterson

Advent 3: (younger/older)  
"If you take a Mouse to the Movies"  
Laura Nurmeroff

"One Candle" by Eve Bunting  
(This book deals with one family's hope in the wake of the Holocaust.)

Advent 4: "Trees of the Dancing Goats"  
Patricia Polacco

Christmas: "The Polar Express"  
Chris Van Allsburg

## Action

Advent 1: Look at today's newspaper and find stories of places in the world that need the light of Christ.

Advent 2: Wash the windows in your bedroom. A wise elder once suggested that when our windows were clean, they could get a better view of the world. As you wash your window, imagine the light of God shining through.

Advent 3: Commit a "random act of kindness". Think about one kind thing you can do for someone in your community today. Maybe it's sharing the swing with a lonely child, maybe it's smiling at a weary parent. Beware - random acts of kindness have a way of growing!

Advent 4: Gather the presents you have bought and made for your family. Think one special thought about each person, write it down on a small piece of paper and tuck the paper inside the package.

## Writing Activity

Advent 1: Write a letter to (or draw a picture for) a world leader describing a world filled with light of Christ.

Advent 2: Write a letter to (or draw a picture for) a member of your family describing your home filled with light of Christ.

Advent 3: Write a letter to (or draw a picture for) a religious leader describing a church filled with light of Christ.

Advent 4: Write a letter to (or draw a picture for) yourself describing your life filled with light of Christ.

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