

As Christians we observe the season of Advent. This is a time of preparation as we wait for our Savior. Prior to the first Christmas, God's people waited for the One who would save them. Today we wait for Christ's return and final victory over Satan.

Take advantage of this wonderful season. As a family, explore the character of the One for which we wait. Each week choose at least one activity from that week's card and commit to completing that activity before the end of the week.

What Are We WAITing For?

## Week 1

### Jesus is... Wise

Imagine you are going to a space center to order a rocket ship that will carry you and your family to the moon. This could be a very exciting journey—as long as your ship is safe and reliable. Imagine sitting down with the builder to discuss the plans. When you start talking about your plans, he seems confused about which moon you want to visit. Which moon? Does he not realize Earth has only one? Then he starts talking about building your entire ship out of white pine to save money. Wood? Wouldn't that catch fire and burn as you take off? Then he starts talking about installing automatic windows so you can roll them down for some fresh air once you get there!

How much confidence would you have in this builder? Would you trust him to build your ship? Would you ever get in the ship once it was ready? Of course not! You would never put your trust in someone who knew so little about his job.

Unlike this scary builder, Our Lord is one of infinite wisdom. He knows everything about us and our universe because He created it, "For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him" Colossians 1:16.

Unlike this scary builder, we can put our faith in the plans God has for us. As our Creator, He knows what is best for us and promises He has a perfect plan. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11. He doesn't always promise He will let us in on the plan, but He does promise that there will be one.

As you complete this week's activity, consider the great comfort and joy we can find in the unfathomable wisdom of our Lord and Savior.

## Week 1

### Jesus is... Wise

- Take turns blindfolding each other and then direct each other on a walk through your house. How hard it is to follow the plan if you cannot see where you are going? What do you have to do to follow the plan? Discuss what we have to do to follow God's plan (listen carefully, communicate with him, pay attention, etc.)
- Bake cookies together. Before you get started, pull out all the ingredients for the cookies, but do not get out the recipe. Instruct your kids to start preparing the batter (without the instructions). Discuss how difficult this would be without the recipe. What written plan does God give us to follow when living our lives? You could also discuss how recipes are often passed from generation to generation. Discuss why families might do this and why we should do the same with the gospel.
- Review the past year for your family. What were some of the journeys you took? Did everything turn out according to your plan? What was unexpected? Where can you see God's hand/plan in your past year? Make a plan for your family. What are your plans for this Advent season? Where will Christ be in those plans?
- Review Bible stories of the people who, at the time, may not have seen the wisdom of God's plan. Can you now see the "why?" of His plan? How hard would it be to trust that plan when it doesn't make sense? What happens if we think we know better than God and follow our own plan? Suggested stories: Joseph & Mary (Matthew 1:18-25); Joseph & Mary's journey to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15); Jonah (Jonah 1:1-3:15); Samuel & David (1 Samuel 16:1-13); Moses (Exodus 3:9-4:17); Noah (Genesis 6:11-7:6); Esther (Esther 3-8); or Peter (Luke 22:31-62).

## Week 2

### Jesus is... Almighty

"Mightier than the thunders of many waters,  
mightier than the waves of the sea,  
the Lord on high is mighty"  
Psalm 93:4

Have you ever been asked to do something that felt impossible? Maybe your mom said you had to eat all of your lima beans or you struggled with a math problem you just couldn't solve. I'm sure Mary felt she was in an impossible situation when she learned she was having a baby. How would she ever convince her family or Joseph that her words were true? Who would believe her remarkable story? If they didn't believe her, how would she ever raise this Holy Child on her own?

Fortunately, Mary knew she served an Almighty God. She put her faith in the One who has all power and authority. In her song of praise, she sang, "for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name" Luke 1:49. She trusted God and knew that with Him, nothing is impossible (Matthew 19:26).

As you complete this week's activity, consider the power of our Almighty Lord and Savior. Discuss where you can draw your strength and hope when a challenge seems too big for you to handle. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" Ephesians 6:10.

## Week 2

### Jesus is... Almighty

- Place a mound of salt in a small dish, then sprinkle pepper over the salt. Ask the kids how difficult it would be to separate the pepper and the salt (seems impossible). Take a plastic spoon and rub it on your clothes or hair. Hold it over the mound and watch the pepper adhere to the spoon. Discuss how no matter how impossible something seems, our Almighty God is not limited. He can do anything.
- Together research the natural wonders of the world. Talk about the Almighty Creator. Where else do we see God's Almighty hand around us? (Check out [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) to get started.)
- Where are you placing your hope this Advent season? Select a verse that tells the story of salvation and share it with others in as many ways as possible (e.g., cards, greetings, Facebook, etc.).
- Share your faith stories. How has God helped you when all seemed impossible?
- As you pray together this week, pray these verses (1 Chronicles 29:10b-13) praising our Almighty Lord.

"Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of Israel our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank You, our God, and praise Your glorious name."

## Week 3

### Jesus is... Imperishable

The holiday season is always so busy. There are bargains to hunt, gifts to purchase, and packages to wrap or mail. Many of us start early in the year just to get it all done on time. Think back though the gifts you gave or received this past Christmas. Where are those gifts now? What condition are they in? Do the kids still play with all the toys? Have any of them been broken or lost? Do those clothes or boots still fit? While these gifts gave us joy last year, they were perishable. They will not last forever.

The gift we are given in our Baptism is one that never breaks and never fails. We can never outgrow it, nor does it ever go out of style. According to 1 Peter 1:4, we are given "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." Our salvation is the greatest gift of all given to us by a Savior who is imperishable. Our Lord will never grow old and tired. His eyes will not weaken, nor will His hearing fail. Our Lord will reign forever.

In the hustle and bustle of a busy and disposable world, we can find quiet reassurance that there is One who always remains constant!

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
They are new every morning;  
Great is Your faithfulness."  
- Lamentations 3:22-23

## Week 3

### Jesus is... Imperishable

- Create special gift tags that share a verse of salvation. On the tag, include something like, "Please accept this temporary gift as a token of my love and this reminder of God's eternal gift from above."
- Research the original Jewish temple, then discuss the following questions. What happened to it? What did Christ mean in John 2:19? What temple did He rebuild? Where is it? Can this one be destroyed?
- Brainstorm gifts you could give to each other this year that are imperishable. Examples include: "I will start putting away the laundry." "I will make you a hot breakfast every Monday morning." Ask each member of the family to make a card for every other member that share the imperishable gift they will give. Place these cards under the tree, and "open" them Christmas morning.
- The gifts we give this Christmas may be temporary, but we can use them to help others. Go through your toys, books, and games. Fix them up and share them with another less fortunate family.

## Week 4

### Jesus is... Truth

The concept of truth has been in question since the beginning of humankind. Satan used Eve's understanding of the truth as a weapon against her in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3 the serpent asked Eve, "Did God really say...?" He twisted Eve's understanding of God's truth until he was able to convince her to disobey.

Today the truth is questioned just as much, if not more. Satan still asks us, "Did God really say...?"

- Did God really say not to steal? He didn't mean something as small as these paper clips.
- Did God really say not to lie? Sometimes I have to lie because I can't tell them how I really feel.
- Did God really say that we can get to heaven only if we believe in Christ as our Savior? There are good people in the world who don't believe. Surely He wouldn't send them to hell...

Fortunately, there is One who is the ultimate source of absolute truth. When Jesus was on trial before Pilate, He said, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me" (John 18:37). Jesus instructs us to listen to Him closely so that we are not swayed by sin. "If you hold to My teaching, you who are really My disciples, then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

As you complete this week's activity, pay close attention to the ways in which the truth is tested in our world, and examine what Jesus has to say about these truths.

## Week 4

### Jesus is... Truth

- Watch a TV program together. Pay close attention to the commercials. Discuss what techniques the advertisers use to sell their product. Do they use tricks to stretch the truth? What happens when you purchase the product and find out it was not what you expected?
- Play a Fact or Fiction game using statements or stories from the Bible and/or the Christmas story. Talk about what you need to do if you are not sure about the answer (return to the source, the Bible). Discuss how important it is to read the Bible regularly so that we know the truth and are not fooled by the enemy.
- Read the Christmas story together. Where are some places where the truth was an issue? (Mary's story, the angels' announcements, Herod, etc.)
- Discuss areas of today's world where the truth seems to be lost. Why do you think that is so? Commit to praying for this particular area as a family. Discuss what you can do to share the truth with others.