



SEND THE

Light

A Four Week Journey through Advent

Welcome to Advent!

There is a card in this devotional pack for every day of a full four week-Advent season, along with a card for Christmas Day. Not every Advent has four full weeks. When Christmas Day arrives, you can either skip to the last card and end your Advent journey, or you can finish out the cards during the days that follow Christmas.

Ideas for using this devotion:

- Read the scripture side of the card in the morning and reflect on it during the day. Read the action side of the card in the evening.
- Pair the cards with a daily ritual you already have, like morning coffee, or a new ritual, like lighting Advent candles.
- Use the cards as a prompt for dinner discussion with your household.
- String the cards up on a strong ribbon using miniature clothespins. It's like an Advent calendar and a garland rolled into one!
- Start with good intentions, forget about it halfway through, and forgive yourself! It's a busy season, and Advent will always come again.

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SEND *Hope*

First Sunday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Mark 13:24-26

But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see 'the Son of Man
coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

Sunday | Ask

This week's theme is hope. As Christians, we put our hope in Christ. Just as our ancient ancestors in faith waited hopefully for a Savior, we also wait hopefully for Jesus to come again "with great power and glory" to make all things new.

In writing, in conversation, or in your heart, answer these questions:

What are you hoping God will do in your life this Advent?

What are you hoping God will do in the world this Advent?



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First Monday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Ephesians 1:17-19

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Monday | Ponder

Today's scripture is a prayer by the Apostle Paul for the people at Ephesus. Paul prays that "the eyes of their hearts" will have enough light to see the hope we have in God.

This season we are surrounded by lights--some comforting, some dazzling, some blinding. What helps you see God's power and sustains your ability to have hope? What distracts you from seeing God at work? And what blinds you to God's activity?

**Reflect on today's verses from Scripture.
What wisdom do they have for you?**



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First Tuesday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Psalm 119:114

You are my refuge and my shield;
I have put my hope in your word.”

Tuesday | Listen

Find a version of “O Holy Night.” Listen especially for the following lyrics. What emotions does the song stir in you today?

Long lay the world
in sin and error pining
'til He appeared
and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope--
the weary world rejoices!
For yonder breaks
a new and glorious morn.



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First Wednesday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Psalm 33:20-22

Our soul waits for the Lord;

he is our help and shield.

Our heart is glad in him

because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,

even as we hope in you.

Wednesday | Pause

The week is half over. Find a few minutes today to pause, give thanks for what you have seen God do, and ask God's help for any stresses you are facing. You are encouraged to light a candle and include a time of silence and rest along with your prayers.

Holy God,
my soul is waiting.
But even while I wait,
I am already with you.
Here in this room,
here in my heart,
I know you are with me.
Amen.



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First Thursday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Thursday | Reflect

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Rome to encourage them to hold tight to their faith in the midst of that busy, chaotic, cruel city, right in the heart of an empire. Following Christ, he reminds them, means you will incur affliction; following Christ will put you at odds with the world. Yet, speaking from his own experience, Paul insists that affliction ultimately leads to hope, because it is in the darkest times that we can see God's light shining most brightly. The point is not to "build character" by seeking out suffering, but to let God shape our character towards hope in times of suffering.

When have you felt hope in God despite the outward circumstances? If you are in a time of affliction now, what practice can help you reclaim hope?



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First Friday of Advent

Verse of the Day | Matthew 12:18-21

Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he has brought justice through to victory.
In his name the nations will put their hope.

Friday | Give Hope

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus recalls the words of Isaiah to describe his own mission: to serve God by bringing justice to the oppressed and caring for those who are worn out. Take a few minutes to follow in Jesus' footsteps by serving those in need of justice and care:

Ideas:

- Go through your winter coats and see if there are any to donate to a coat drive.
- Commit to buying a Christmas gift for a local child in need.
- Donate money to a cause that supports those in seemingly hopeless situations.