



ADVENT 2020
DEVOTIONAL

this devotional belongs to

ISAIAH 64:4

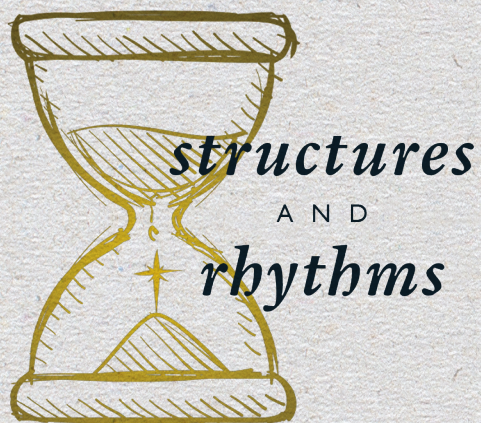
*Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of
those who wait for him.*

*You may have heard Christians say that we need to
“wait on God” or “wait for the Lord.”*

You may have said this yourself, about your own life or someone else's. The Scriptures also say it in many places. But what does it mean? Is it passive? What do we do while we are waiting? What are we waiting for? How long do we wait? And will God come through for us?

Knowing that for which we wait and hope gives us eyes to see when we have received it in the end. But the means is just as important as the end. Those who receive that in which they hope are those who have waited in patience for God to act. They have received God's provisions with trust and gratitude, even as they wait. They persevered with joy because of how they waited and in whom they hoped.

During this advent season, we'll be talking about both the wait and the hope of waiting on God. This advent devotional will follow themes from the sermons of the advent series, but the distinct purpose of this study will be to add color and depth in our personal reflections of what it means to wait and hope in God. Each week, we'll look at specific people who have waited in the Bible and the themes that develop from their stories throughout revelation history and into our lives today. We will also develop repetitions of devotion, gratitude and joy in order that we might wait and hope in patience for the work of God.



structures

AND

rhythms

Structures

For the next four weeks, we will devote ourselves to God and practice waiting on God in hope through spiritual disciplines. We've built these practices into the devotional, so that all you need to do is follow along.

1. MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE:

Over the season of advent, we will memorize a short passage each week, culminating in our theme verse for Advent in Week 4:

Week 1: Galatians 5:5

Week 2: Hebrews 6:9 – 12

Week 3: James 5:7 – 8

Week 4: Isaiah 64:4

FAMILIES

Parents, your kids can memorize our theme verse, Isaiah 64:4, this Advent too! The version below is written for children and is easier for them to understand. Parents of toddlers may want to just do the first sentence; preschoolers, the first two; and grade school students, the entire verse!

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.

No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.

No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.

2. DEVOTE OURSELVES DAILY TO GOD.

- Read a Scripture passage.
- Write our reflections on the passage. While each passage will be accompanied by a reflection question, we encourage you to also write out your own reflections from the passages.
- Memorize and review the memory passage. Say it out loud, write it down, or do something more creative!
- Pray:
 - What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?
 - What has God provided that I need to thank him for?
 - What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.
 - What do I need to hope in God for?

Rhythms

Spiritual growth is fostered by rhythms that work with the grain of how God has created us as human beings and that remind us that our life comes from God. This season, we will develop rhythms specifically focused on waiting on God and hoping in his promise.

PRAYER: Every Sunday, choose a time during the day to gather people in your household (or via Zoom) to light a candle and pray. If you have a set of advent candles, you can use them and light one more candle each week. If not, use any single candle to light while you pray each Sunday. In God's relationship with his people, fire has been a way that he reminds his people of his presence with them—think of the burning bush, or guiding the Israelites through the desert. The purpose of the candle for this prayer time is to remind us of God's presence, and in doing so, to remember our hope in the middle of circumstances that could lead to discouragement, gloom or despair apart from Christ. As you pray, recognize God's presence and faithfulness, and continue to wait in hope for his promises.

FAMILIES

Gather your kids for a family devotional during the time when you light the candle and pray. We'll have a section for you each Sunday so that you can talk with your kids about a key truth for the week, read a Bible story, and pray together.

FASTING: We will practice fasting the first three Thursdays of advent. Spend the day pressing into the waiting period by fasting from something in your life for the day. In the Bible, periods in which God's people had to wait were also periods of testing to see whether they trusted in idols for their life, or in God. During advent, we remember that we are also God's people in a period of waiting. We eagerly await the return of Jesus, just as our ancestors in our faith patiently awaited the coming of a Savior; this is our hope. The wait is also a test for us. Therefore, the best candidate for what to fast from is whatever you have placed your trust in addition to or apart

from Christ. Is it food that makes you feel safe and comforted? Is it feeling important to others through an app on your phone? What would happen if you spent a day without caffeine?

The final Thursday is Christmas Eve, and we will not fast on that day. Instead, we will celebrate the reality that God has provided what we need for life and godliness in Christ, and that we have now in part received what he has promised. We look forward to the day when we will receive the object of our hope in full.

FEASTING: Each Friday, remember God's provision for us as we wait by taking the time to prepare a special meal. Make a meal with someone in your household, or plan a virtual meal time to catch up with a friend or loved one. We included a recipe for each week that you could invite someone to make along with you, even if that person is in their own home across the city or the world. Pray together to thank God for the meal at the beginning and the end.

You might think this sounds like extra work, especially if you are feeling weary at the end of this year. But this is intentional. The habit of carving out space for a meal with others, even creatively done in a time of social isolation, "is a way of moving the table back to the center of who we are and ordering our day around the kind of people we were created to be: dependent and communal human beings."¹ We must be vigilant to remember we are dependent on God, and that he gives us what we need for life.

1 Earley, Justin Whitmel. "One Meal with Others." *The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction*, InterVarsity Press, 2019, p. 49.

MEMORY PASSAGES

WEEK 1

GALATIANS 5:5

For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.

WEEK 2

HEBREWS 6:9 – 12

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

WEEK 3

JAMES 5:7 – 8

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

WEEK 4

ISAIAH 64:4

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

DAILY READING PLAN

WEEK 1

EAGERLY AWAITING THAT FOR WHICH WE HOPE

Monday: Genesis 15

Tuesday: Genesis 22:1 – 19

Wednesday: Romans 4:18 – 25, 5:1 – 5

Thursday: Hebrews 6:9 – 20

Friday: Galatians 5:1 – 5

WEEK 2

WAITING ON GOD IN THE WILDERNESS

Monday: Exodus 16:1 – 17:7

Tuesday: Psalm 107

Wednesday: Isaiah 40

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 10:1 – 17

Friday: Philippians 3:10 – 21

WEEK 3

WAITING ON GOD IN SUFFERING

Monday: 1 Samuel 24

Tuesday: Psalm 63

Wednesday: Job 1, 14, James 5:7 – 11

Thursday: Psalm 27

Friday: Isaiah 55

WEEK 4

THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM RECEIVE THAT FOR WHICH THEY HOPE

Monday: Luke 1, 2:1 – 40

Tuesday: Matthew 4:1 – 17

Wednesday: John 6:1 – 15, 25 – 59

Thursday: Christmas Eve Liturgy

Friday: Romans 8:18 – 25, Revelation 21:1 – 5, 22:17

*For through the Spirit
we eagerly await by
faith the righteousness
for which we hope.*

GALATIANS 5:5



week 1

EAGERLY AWAITING THAT
FOR WHICH WE HOPE



sunday

WEEK 1

REFLECT

What was your main takeaway from the sermon today?

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

GALATIANS 5:5

*For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness
for which we hope.*

LIGHT A CANDLE AND PRAY

How have you sensed God's presence with you this week?

FAMILIES

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We have hope while we wait because we can trust God's promises.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Abraham Tested (Genesis 22:1 – 19)

Read the story from the Bible, or a kids Bible if you have one. Get creative by creating a picture of the story or acting it out!

DISCUSSION PROMPT: What did God do to keep his promise to Abraham?

PRAYER PROMPT THIS WEEK: What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.

This is one of the prayer prompts that is included in the daily devotional. Pray this each day throughout the week with your kids as a reminder of the key truth for this week.

PLAN AHEAD

- THURSDAY: What will I fast from?
- FRIDAY: What is my plan for my meal to celebrate the provision of God, and who will I celebrate with? How?
- NEXT SUNDAY: When will I take time to light a candle and pray?



monday

WEEK 1

SCRIPTURE

Read Genesis 15.

REFLECT

What was God's promise to Abram (Abraham), and on what basis could Abram trust God's promise?

REVIEW

Review Galatians 5:5.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



tuesday

WEEK 1

SCRIPTURE

Read Genesis 22:1 – 19.

REFLECT

In a temporary sense, Abraham received what was promised to him through the miraculous birth of his son, Isaac. With that context, what do we learn in this passage about what we're waiting for, how we are to wait, and God's purposes for us in our waiting?

REVIEW

Review Galatians 5:5.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

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RESPONSES



wednesday

WEEK 1

SCRIPTURE

Read Romans 4:18 – 25, 5:1 – 5.

REFLECT

How is Abraham tied to Jesus? Why is this significant for us as the church today?

REVIEW

Review Galatians 5:5.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

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*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



thursday

WEEK 1

SCRIPTURE

Read Hebrews 6:9 – 20.

REFLECT

As heirs of God's promise to Abraham, what has God, therefore promised to us? How might we receive what was promised?

REVIEW

Review Galatians 5:5.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

RHYTHMS

What am I fasting from today? Why? How have I placed my hope in that thing instead of, or in addition to, placing my hope in Christ?

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



SCRIPTURE

Read Galatians 5:1 – 5.

REFLECT

In what ways do you tend to justify yourself in the flesh? How is true righteousness different, and how does this produce hope?

REVIEW

Review Galatians 5:5.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

RHYTHMS

How am I going to feast today and celebrate the provision of God, and who am I going to celebrate with? Why is this significant to me?

Pray together to thank God for the meal at the beginning and the end.

FAMILIES

During the feast, talk about the key truth from the week and the prayer prompt. **ASK:** What did you learn about God?

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We have hope while we wait because we can trust God's promises.

PRAYER PROMPT: What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.

RESPONSES



*bacon-wrapped dates*²

RECIPE

PREP TIME: 20 minutes

COOK TIME: 25 minutes

INGREDIENTS

1 8-ounce package pitted dates

4 ounces goat cheese

1 16-ounce package bacon

INSTRUCTIONS

Slice alongside one side of each date, from the top to the bottom, so you can open it like a book. Scoop a small amount of goat cheese into the center of each one, and then close it back up.

FAMILIES

Kids can help with this part!

Cut the whole package of bacon in half, so that each long strip is now half as long. Wrap a half-slice of bacon around the outside of each date.

Arrange seam side down in a baking dish or on a baking sheet with sides to catch any grease. A foil pan is really nice for no cleanup.

Bake at 400 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, or until well browned and crispy. Drain on a paper towel, and serve warm or at room temperature.



saturday

WEEK 1

Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

GALATIANS 5:5

*For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness
for which we hope.*

REFLECT

What is your key takeaway from your Scripture reading this week? Write it down.

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

HEBREWS 6:9 – 12



week 2

WAITING ON GOD
IN THE WILDERNESS



sunday

WEEK 2

REFLECT

What was your main takeaway from the sermon today?

MEMORY PASSAGE OF THE WEEK

HEBREWS 6:9 – 12

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

LIGHT A CANDLE AND PRAY

How have you sensed God's presence with you this week?

FAMILIES

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We have hope while we wait because God provides what we need.

STORY OF THE WEEK: God Provides and Tests the Israelites with Manna and Water (Exodus 16:1 – 17:7)

Read the story from the Bible, or a kids Bible if you have one. Get creative by creating a picture of the story or acting it out!

DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

1. What's the difference between needing something and wanting something?
2. Remember a time when you had to wait a long time for something you needed. How did you feel while you had to wait?
3. Did you ever get the thing you needed? Who gave it to you?

PRAYER PROMPT THIS WEEK: What has God provided that I need to thank him for?

This is one of the prayer prompts that is included in the daily devotional. Pray this each day throughout the week with your kids as a reminder of the key truth for this week.

PLAN AHEAD

- THURSDAY: What will I fast from?
- FRIDAY: What is my plan for my meal to celebrate the provision of God, and who will I celebrate with? How? *Look ahead at the recipe; it needs to be prepped the night before.*
- NEXT SUNDAY: When will I take time to light a candle and pray?



monday

WEEK 2

SCRIPTURE

Read Exodus 16:1 – 17:7.

REFLECT

What does this passage reveal about God's purposes for his people as they waited in the wilderness?

REVIEW

Review Hebrews 6:9 – 10.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



tuesday

WEEK 2

SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 107.

REFLECT

What are various ways that God has provided for his people out of his unfailing love? How has God provided for you as you wait for him in hope?

REVIEW

Review Hebrews 6:9 – 11.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

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RESPONSES



wednesday

WEEK 2

SCRIPTURE

Read Isaiah 40.

REFLECT

Note the theme that's been coming up this week about the wilderness. What does this passage say about the wilderness, and the state of those who are waiting on God? How does this add to the other passages we have read so far?

REVIEW

Review Hebrews 6:9 – 11.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

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No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
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RESPONSES



thursday

WEEK 2

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1 – 17.

REFLECT

What do the passages that we've read about the wilderness connect to Christ? What can we take away from them for how we wait in our own lives?

REVIEW

Review Hebrews 6:9 – 12.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

RHYTHMS

What am I fasting from today? Why? How have I placed my hope in that thing instead of, or in addition to, placing my hope in Christ?

Reminder: Look ahead at tomorrow's recipe!

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



friday WEEK 2

SCRIPTURE

Read Philippians 3:10 – 21.

REFLECT

What does this passage tell us about what our hope is? How is this hope relevant to this season of advent, and what we're waiting for?

REVIEW

Review Hebrews 6:9 – 12.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

RHYTHMS

How am I going to feast today and celebrate the provision of God, and who am I going to celebrate with? Why is this significant to me?

Pray together to thank God for the meal at the beginning and the end.

FAMILIES

During the feast, talk about the key truth from the week and the prayer prompt. **ASK:** What did you learn about God?

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We have hope while we wait because God provides what we need.

PRAYER PROMPT: What has God provided that I need to thank him for?

RESPONSES



artisan no-knead bread

RECIPE

PREP TIME: 10 minutes the day before + 12–14 hours rise time

COOK TIME: 45 minutes

FAMILIES

This is an easy recipe to make with kids, and one that will illustrate waiting a long time for something needed for life.

ACTIVITY: Have your child make observations about what the bread dough looks like when you first put it in a bowl to let it rest and rise. Then, before you put the bread in the oven have the child check the bread again with you, and ask them what they notice has changed. Do the same after you bake it.

TAKEAWAY TO DISCUSS: We had to wait for the bread to be ready, but there was something significant that happened to the bread in the meantime that made it good for us to eat at the right time.

INGREDIENTS

3 cups unbleached all-purpose flour

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoons salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon yeast

1 tablespoon sugar (optional, but you will get a higher rise)

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cool water

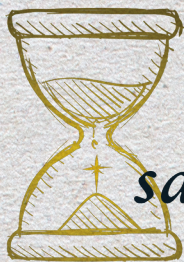
INSTRUCTIONS

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together flour, salt and yeast. Add water and mix with a fork until a shaggy mixture forms. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and set aside for 12-14 hours. Overnight works great. Or, set aside on a warm place on an inside wall for slightly less time.

Heat oven to 450 degrees. Preheat with a cast iron pot and lid in the oven until the temperature is ready.

Meanwhile, pour the dough on a heavily floured surface and shape into a ball (don't knead it). Cover with plastic wrap and let set while the pot is heating.

Remove the hot pot from the oven, and flour the pot before dropping the ball of dough into the pot. Cover and return to the oven for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, remove the lid and bake for an additional 10-15 minutes. Remove and let cool on a rack. Once cool, either enjoy while fresh or wrap with foil in the meantime.



saturday

WEEK 2

Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

MEMORY PASSAGE OF THE WEEK

HEBREWS 6:9 – 12

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

REFLECT

What is your key takeaway from your Scripture reading this week? Write it down.

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

JAMES 5:7 – 8



week 3

WAITING ON GOD
IN SUFFERING



sunday

WEEK 3

REFLECT

What was your main takeaway from the sermon today?

MEMORY PASSAGE OF THE WEEK

JAMES 5:7 – 8

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

LIGHT A CANDLE AND PRAY

How have you sensed God's presence with you this week?

FAMILIES

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We can hope while we wait because God is on our side.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Saul Hunts David in the Wilderness (1 Samuel 24)

Read the story from the Bible, or a kids Bible if you have one. Get creative by creating a picture of the story or acting it out!

DISCUSSION PROMPT: Did David fight Saul? What did he do instead?

PRAYER PROMPT THIS WEEK: What do I need to hope in God for?

This is one of the prayer prompts that is included in the daily devotional. Pray this each day throughout the week with your kids as a reminder of the key truth for this week.

PLAN AHEAD

- THURSDAY: What will I fast from?
- FRIDAY: What is my plan for my meal to celebrate the provision of God, and who will I celebrate with? How? *Look ahead at the recipe; it needs to be prepped the night before.*
- NEXT SUNDAY: When will I take time to light a candle and pray?



monday

WEEK 3

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Samuel 24.

REFLECT

What was David waiting on God for? How is both the wait and his hope evident in this passage?

REVIEW

Review James 5:7.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

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No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
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RESPONSES



tuesday

WEEK 3

SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 63.

REFLECT

Have you lost sight of God as the thing you earnestly seek and thirst for? If so, how? Use this Psalm to seek and praise God in your own circumstances.

REVIEW

Review James 5:7.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
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RESPONSES



wednesday

WEEK 3

SCRIPTURE

Read Job 1, 14, James 5:7 – 11.

REFLECT

How does Job 1 describe Job? In light of this, how does God interact with Job? Why? How does Job interact with God as he waits for relief from his suffering?

REVIEW

Review James 5:7 – 8.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



thursday

WEEK 3

SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 27.

REFLECT

What is the hope offered in this passage for the wait? What are the implications of that for your life?

REVIEW

Review James 5:7 – 8.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

RHYTHMS

What am I fasting from today? Why? How have I placed my hope in that thing instead of, or in addition to, placing my hope in Christ?

Reminder: Look ahead at tomorrow's recipe!

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



SCRIPTURE

Read Isaiah 55.

REFLECT

How do we “spend money on that which is not bread, and [our] labor on that which does not satisfy” (Is. 55:2a)? What does it mean to accept the invitation to “eat what is good” and for our “soul to delight in the richest of fare” (Is. 55:2b)? How does the rest of the passage illustrate this?

REVIEW

Review James 5:7 – 8.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God’s character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

RHYTHMS

How am I going to feast today and celebrate the provision of God, and who am I going to celebrate with? Why is this significant to me? Pray together to thank God for the meal at the beginning and the end.

FAMILIES

During the feast, talk about the key truth from the week and the prayer prompt. **ASK:** What did you learn about God?

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We can hope while we wait because God is on our side.

PRAYER PROMPT: What do I need to hope in God for?

RESPONSES



roasted chicken

RECIPE

PREP TIME: 10 minutes the day before (with 12 hours overnight in fridge) + 10 minutes the day of

COOK TIME: 90 minutes + 15 minutes rest time

INGREDIENTS

1 whole chicken

2 tbsp butter

Seasoning options for the inside of the bird:

Lemons

Rosemary

Thyme

Stuffing

Whole head of garlic

Salt & Pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

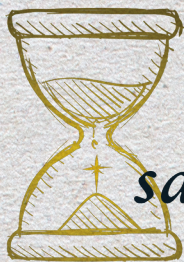
The day before you plan to roast the chicken remove the giblets and rinse the chicken. Pat it dry with a paper towel. Place it in your roasting pan and generously salt it. Add to the inside any seasonings (suggestion: three halves of lemon—reserve the last half of the lemon for the next day—lemon zest, salt, pepper, rosemary, and lemon/garlic seasoning). Don't worry about over-flavoring the roast. If you're going to make stuffing, don't add that until right before you roast the chicken.

Place the chicken uncovered in your fridge overnight. This will help make the skin extra crispy.

The next day, preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Take the bird out of the fridge. You can either cook the chicken breast down or breast up. Use some string to tie the legs together. Do this after you add anything else to the cavity of the bird (like stuffing). Melt 2 tbsp of butter, and brush the melted butter all over the bird. Squeeze the last half of lemon over top of the bird and season with salt and pepper.

Optional: Roast vegetables of your choice with the chicken in the same pan. They will soak up the juices from the chicken, lemon, butter, and seasonings.

Roast the chicken in the oven for an hour and a half, basting the chicken throughout. After it's done, take it out of the oven and cover with aluminum foil to rest for another 15-20 minutes or so. Carve and eat!



saturday

WEEK 3

Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

MEMORY PASSAGE OF THE WEEK

JAMES 5:7 – 8

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

REFLECT

What is your key takeaway from your Scripture reading this week? Write it down.

*Since ancient times no
one has heard, no ear has
perceived, no eye has seen
any God besides you, who
acts on behalf of those who
wait for him.*

ISAIAH 64:4



week 4

THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM
RECEIVE THAT FOR WHICH
THEY HOPE



sunday

WEEK 4

REFLECT

What was your main takeaway from the sermon today?

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

ISAIAH 64:4

*Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of
those who wait for him.*

LIGHT A CANDLE AND PRAY

How have you sensed God's presence with you this week?

FAMILIES

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We have hope while we wait because God keeps his promises.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Jesus Comes (Luke 1:1 – 2:40)

Read the story from the Bible, or a kids Bible if you have one. Get creative by creating a picture of the story or acting it out!

DISCUSSION PROMPT: How did Mary respond to the news that Jesus was coming? How did God keep his promise by sending Jesus?

PRAYER PROMPT THIS WEEK: What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?

This is one of the prayer prompts that is included in the daily devotional. Pray this each day throughout the week with your kids as a reminder of the key truth for this week.

PLAN AHEAD

- **THURSDAY:** What will I fast from?
- **FRIDAY:** What is my plan for my meal to celebrate the provision of God, and who will I celebrate with? How?
- **NEXT SUNDAY:** When will I take time to light a candle and pray?



monday

WEEK 4

SCRIPTURE

Read Luke 1, 2:1 – 40.

REFLECT

What similar themes from previous readings do you see in this passage? What is being received, and by whom?

REVIEW

Review Isaiah 64:4.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

*No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



tuesday

WEEK 4

SCRIPTURE

Read Matthew 4:1 – 17.

REFLECT

*What do we learn from Jesus when he is tested in the wilderness?
How does this fulfill the Scriptures we read in past weeks?*

REVIEW

Review Isaiah 64:4.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

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No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



wednesday

WEEK 4

SCRIPTURE

Read John 6:1 – 15, 25 – 59.

REFLECT

What do we learn from Jesus about the provision of God for his people as they wait? How does this fulfill the Scriptures we read in past weeks?

REVIEW

Review Isaiah 64:4.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

FAMILIES

At dinnertime, pray the prayer prompt for this week with your kids, and work on memorizing the advent verse.

ISAIAH 64:4 (NIRV)

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No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him.*

RESPONSES



thursday

WEEK 4

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY³

Use this on your own, or as you gather with others to celebrate Christmas together. Especially for those of you who may not be able to attend a Christmas Eve service at church this year, we hope that rejoicing together will provide a tangible reminder of the provision and hope that we have in the coming of Christ.

SING: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come all ye faithful

Born the King of angels

Joyful and triumphant

O come let us adore him

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

O come let us adore him

Come and behold him

O come let us adore him: Christ the Lord

READ: LUKE 1:26 – 35

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

SING: WHAT CHILD IS THIS

*What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping
This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds watch and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary*

READ: LUKE 2:1 – 7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

SING: HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

<i>Hark the herald angels sing</i>	<i>Join the triumph of the skies</i>
<i>Glory to the newborn King</i>	<i>With angelic hosts proclaim</i>
<i>Peace on earth and mercy mild</i>	<i>Christ is born in Bethlehem</i>
<i>God and sinners reconciled</i>	<i>Hark the herald angels sing</i>
<i>Joyful all ye nations rise</i>	<i>Glory to the newborn King</i>

READ: MATTHEW 2:1 – 2, 7 – 10 AND LUKE 2:8 – 14

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him...Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

SING: THE FIRST NOEL

*The first noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel*

*Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing over the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis deo*

READ: JOHN 1:1 – 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SING: SILENT NIGHT

*Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace*

*Silent night, holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at thy birth
Jesus Lord at thy birth*

PRAY

- **What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?**
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*



SCRIPTURE

Read Romans 8:18 – 25, Revelation 21:1 – 5, 22:17.

REFLECT

We celebrate at Christmas because Jesus came to fulfill in part what God had promised. What are we waiting for now? What is our hope?

REVIEW

Review Isaiah 64:4.

PRAY

- *What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?*
- *What has God provided that I need to thank him for?*
- *What am I waiting for? Give it to the Lord in prayer.*
- *What do I need to hope in God for?*

RHYTHMS

How am I going to feast today and celebrate the provision of God, and who am I going to celebrate with? Why is this significant to me?

Pray together to thank God for the meal at the beginning and the end.

FAMILIES

During the feast, talk about the key truth from the week and the prayer prompt. **ASK:** What did you learn about God?

KEY TRUTH FOR THIS WEEK: We have hope while we wait because God keeps his promises.

PRAYER PROMPT: What aspect of God's character do I need to praise him for?

RESPONSES



christmas morning cinnamon rolls

RECIPE

PREP TIME: 3 ½ hours (with rise time)

COOK TIME: 20 minutes

INGREDIENTS

1 cup milk (warm)
1 cup water (warm)
1 tbsp yeast
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup shortening
2 tsp salt
2 eggs
6 cups flour

For filling:

4 tbsp butter, melted
1/2 cup sugar
1 1/2 tsp cinnamon

For icing:

1-2 tbsp milk
2 tbsp butter, softened
3 cups powdered sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine flour, sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Add yeast to warm water, then add water/yeast mixture, milk, and eggs. Add shortening and mix to combine until smooth consistency.

Cover and let rise until doubled (usually 1-2 hours).

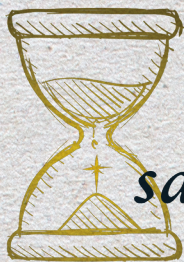
Roll out onto a floured surface into approximately a 13x18 inch round sheet. Spread evenly with butter, then sprinkle with mixture of cinnamon and sugar.

Roll sheet of dough lengthwise and divide and cut into 12 rolls. Place into a greased pan about 1/2 inch apart. Cover and let rise 30 minutes to an hour. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

Bake for 18-20 minutes until browned on top. Let cool completely before frosting.

ICING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Whip butter and powdered sugar together.
2. Add milk to desired consistency.



saturday

WEEK 4

Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 64:4

*Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of
those who wait for him.*

REFLECT

*What is your key takeaway from this devotional series?
Write it down.*

NOTES

NOTES

