

Advent 2021: *More Life*

Becoming Storytellers: A Resource for Home Discipleship

Scripture is the story of God's work among humanity. God called bold, faithful storytellers to watch and record God's presence in the everyday realities of joy and struggle. We, too, are called to tell our story, and to reflect on *the Story*.

You can use this Advent resource in a variety of ways. The prayers could be repeated as blessings for meals, morning devotionals, or prayers for lighting your own **Advent wreaths*** (see bottom of page 2). The storytelling prompts can be used as family conversation starters in the car or at the dinner table, as personal journal prompts, or inspiration for art.

In whatever way you decide to keep these daily disciplines, the point is to practice telling your story in a way that reveals God's creative, inventive, life-giving nature in our midst.

May God bless you to be bold, faithful storytellers who celebrate God-among-us.

Advent Week 1: *More Hope* (Jeremiah 29:4-14)

Daily Prayer: God of hope, how often have we found ourselves in exile, separated from your presence! Restore us and let us find you when we seek you. Amen.

Storytelling Prompts:

- Sunday, November 28: Share about a time God revealed God's self during time of trial.
- Monday, November 29: Where have you seen God in the milestones of your life?
- Tuesday, November 30: Name ways you promote the welfare of the city in which you live.
- Wednesday, December 1: Name a time you ended up in an unexpected place or situation.
- Thursday, December 2: How do you search for God when you feel lost?
- Friday, December 3: What makes a place "home"?
- Saturday, December 4: Share some of your hopes for the future.

Advent Week 2: *More Peace* (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Daily Prayer: God of breath, you promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you. Amen.

Storytelling Prompts:

- Sunday, December 5: Share about a time you faced an unknown question or situation.
- Monday, December 6: Name a time you were surprised by witnessing something amazing.
- Tuesday, December 7: Name a time your words carried power.
- Wednesday, December 8: Remember a time you felt like hope was far away; what did you do?
- Thursday, December 9: Have you ever conquered a task or season of life against all odds?
- Friday, December 10: What activity makes you feel full of life?
- Saturday, December 11: What are you doing when you feel most restored?

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Advent Week 3: *More Joy* (Isaiah 55:1-13)

Daily Prayer: God of restoration, save us when we find ourselves spiritually thirsty. Help us walk your road with your purpose, strengthened by your living water. Amen.

Storytelling Prompts:

- Sunday, December 12: In what ways do we “labor for that which does not satisfy” (Is.55:2)?
- Monday, December 13: Remember a time you were forgiven; how did it feel?
- Tuesday, December 14: How does it make you feel to share a meal with loved ones?
- Wednesday, December 15: What does it feel like when the “Lord is near” (Is.55:6) for you?
- Thursday, December 16: When is the last time you celebrated? What were you celebrating?
- Friday, December 17: What is an activity that brings you joy?
- Saturday, December 18: What promises listed in Isaiah 55 do we see at work in the world now?

Advent Week 1: *More Love* (John 1:1-18)

Daily Prayer: God of all time, your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Storytelling Prompts:

- Sunday, December 19: Name a time you felt the presence of God.
- Monday, December 20: What are your favorite ways to praise and worship God?
- Tuesday, December 21: Name a time that beginning something was good for you.
- Wednesday, December 22: Share about a time you experienced “grace upon grace” (Jn. 1:16).
- Thursday, December 23: In your life, where are the places, who are the people, of “light”?

Christmas Eve: *The Story* (Luke 2: 1-20)

Daily Prayer: Holy Father, we celebrate with you the birth of your son, and together we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among people!” Amen.

Storytelling Prompts:

- Friday, December 24: What is your favorite Christmas memory or tradition? Why?

***Don’t have an Advent wreath?** Gather five candles—one for each Sunday in Advent, and one for Christmas Eve. Traditional wreaths have three blue or purple candles (weeks 1, 2, 4), one pink (week 3), and one white (Christmas Eve); yet candles of any color help us see how God’s light increases in this season. For instructions to build your own or to find places to buy contact Pastor Krysta at crosslanesumc@gmail.com or at 304-776-3081.