

What is Advent?

Advent simply means "coming." It focuses on Jesus coming to earth in the past and looks forward to His return to earth at the end of times. What was really coming at Christmas in this tiny baby? Hope was coming. Love was coming. Forgiveness was coming. Joy was coming. Life was coming.

25-Days

Advent 2019 Scripture

Day 1.... Dec 1 – 1 Peter 4:10-11

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Day 2.... Dec 2 – Galatians 5:13

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Day 3.... Dec 3 – 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

"A person should think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. In this regard, it is required that managers be found faithful."

Day 4.... Dec 4 – 1 Samuel 12:24

"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."

Day 5.... Dec 5 – Romans 12:11

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Day 6.... Dec 6 – Matthew 23:11

"The greatest among you will be your servant."

Day 7.... Dec 7 – Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Day 8.... Dec 8 – James 2:15-16

"If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,' but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it?"

Day 9.... Dec 9 – Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Day 10.... Dec 10 – Romans 12:13

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

Day 11.... Dec 11 – Galatians 6:10

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Day 12.... Dec 12 – Proverbs 11:25

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Day 13.... Dec 13 – Acts 20:35

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Day 14.... Dec 14 – Ephesians 2:10

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Day 15.... Dec 15 – Colossians 3:23-24

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."

Day 16.... Dec 16 – 2 Corinthians 9:7-9

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'"

Day 17.... Dec 17 – Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Day 18.... Dec 18 – Hebrews 13:16

"Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices."

Day 19.... Dec 19 – Ephesians 6:6-8

"Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, do God's will from your heart. Serve with a good attitude, as to the Lord and not to people, knowing that whatever good each one does, slave or free, he will receive this back from the Lord."

Day 20.... Dec 20 – 2 Corinthians 9:6

"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully."

Day 21.... Dec 21 – Romans 13:8

"Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law"

Day 22.... Dec 22 – Acts 11:29-30

"Each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea. They did this, sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas and Saul."

Day 23.... Dec 23 – Proverbs 3:9-10

"Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

Day 24.... Dec 24 – James 1:27

"Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

Day 25.... Dec 25 – Matthew 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

[re]GIFT through Action

When we tell others about Jesus and when we serve others by being the hands and feet of Jesus, we are sending love. We are sending peace. We are sending joy. We are sending life. What are you giving away this Christmas Season?

25-Days

Advent 2019 Call-to-Action

- Day 1....** Make a list of the needs you see around you and start praying over them daily. ()
- Day 2....** If you have an elderly neighbor, check in to see how you can help him or her: Chores, food, lifting heavy things, yard work, conversation. Maybe take them a cup of coffee and settle in for a nice chat! ()
- Day 3....** Give your spouse and/or your kids or someone you love extra hugs and kisses; tell them you love them and are thankful for them. ()
- Day 4....** Buy a new toy for a child in need or donate to "Toys for Tots." – drop-off located at Sterling Police Station. ()
- Day 5....** Take dinner to a friend or neighbor. Especially helpful for someone who is having difficulty cooking for themselves or is grieving during the holidays. ()
- Day 6....** Come to church Every Sunday during Advent. ()
- Day 7....** Send out a few "Praying for You" cards to friends or family members. ()
- Day 8....** Fulfill an item from the Hope "giving tree." ()
- Day 9....** If you buy your morning coffee, pick up an extra for a coworker, friend, or neighbor. ()
- Day 10....** Put together a few "blessing bags" with toiletries, nonperishable food items, and a small Bible. Include in each bag a handwritten note describing God's love. Put them in your car and be ready to give them out. ()
- Day 11....** Invite a family to the Christmas Skate on Dec 16, 5:30 – 8:30 PM @ Roll On America. ()
- Day 12....** Donate new sweatshirts for local kids and teens at Christmas Skate. ()
- Day 13....** Choose an encouraging Bible verse and share it on social media. ()
- Day 14....** Pay for the people behind you in the drive thru. ()
- Day 15....** Donate food to a local homeless shelter or food pantry. "Wachusett Food Pantry" in Sterling or "Wheat" in Clinton are good locations. ()
- Day 16....** Shovel your neighbor's driveway...will it be a white Christmas? ()
- Day 17....** Leave love ones notes all over the house, just a few words to let them know you're thankful for them. ()
- Day 18....** Volunteer at a local food pantry. ()
- Day 19....** Take care of a chore that you know your family member or coworker doesn't like doing. ()
- Day 20....** Ask someone to join your family for the Christmas Eve service, Dec 22 @ 6 PM, Dec 24 @ 4 & 6 PM. ()
- Day 21....** Buy some \$5 gift cards and give them to random people: cashier, bus driver, mail delivery person, waitress and wish them a Merry Christmas. ()
- Day 22....** Babysit for a single parent for free. ()
- Day 23....** Send or drop off a gift for a friend along with a note telling them you appreciate them. ()
- Day 24....** Choose an encouraging Bible verse and share it on social media. ()
- Day 25....** Thank God for the greatest gift ever – Jesus, Salvation, Forgiveness, Love, Hope, etc. ()