

FAMILY TABLE FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT



MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH

With your family, prepare an Advent wreath for your table. Here is a way to do this.

Select a base: buy a Styrofoam ring and make four small holes for candles (three purple, one pink) to be fitted in; **OR** cut a piece of cardboard into a circle and put candles (three purple, one pink) in holders and set on the wreath.

Select greens: Use evergreen twigs snipped from your garden tree. Remember to replace them every week as they dry out quickly in a warm house; **OR** use artificial greens from a hobby shop; **OR** if you are using the cardboard base, paint it green.

Place a white Christ candle in the centre of the wreath.

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| Week 1: | Light the purple candle of hope. Read Isaiah 60:2-3. |
| Week 2: | Light the candle of hope <i>and</i> the candle of peace. Read Isaiah 32:17. |
| Week 3: | Light the hope and peace candles <i>plus</i> the pink candle of joy. Read Isaiah 35:10. |
| Week 4: | Light the previous 3 candles <i>and</i> the purple candle of love. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. |
| Christmas eve: | Light the white Christ candle (after sundown) and read Luke 2:1-20. |

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LEARN A BLESSING

With your family, memorize Aaron's blessing (Numbers 6:24-26). It is easy to memorize things by saying them over and over. On the first days you use the blessing, say it five times. In a few days, you will have it memorized forever!

Use the blessing at mealtimes, at bedtime, when you are leaving for work or school, or when someone in the family must travel.

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour
and give you peace. Amen.*

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PREPARE A MANGER

For this activity you will need:

- a shoe box
- a small bag of straw (if you don't live near a farm, just use raffia from a craft store)

Turn the shoe box on its side and use brown paper or brown paint to make a stable. Use the lid of the shoe box to make a manger.

Every day add a little bit of straw to the barn floor and into the manger. This will remind you of waiting for the birth of the baby Jesus and of the importance of getting ready for the Christ child.

If you have nativity figures (Mary, Joseph, shepherds), add them to your stable. Add the infant Jesus on Christmas Day.



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MAKE CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS

If you kept your Christmas cards from last year, work with your family to cut small tags from the cards to use for labels for Christmas gifts.

As you look through the cards, make a list of your friends and relatives who sent the cards and say a prayer for them. Your prayer might sound like this:

Thank you, God, for ...

God, please bless

God, be with

Amen.