

A lit yellow candle is the central focus, surrounded by snow-covered pine branches. The background features a stone fireplace with a window on the left showing a snowflake pattern. The scene is filled with falling snow, creating a cozy winter atmosphere.

# The DEEPER WALK Guide to ADVENT

Marcus Warner

# The DEEPER WALK Guide to ADVENT

© 2010, 2017, 2021 Marcus Warner, *The Deeper Walk Guide to Advent*

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission of Deeper Walk International, except in the case of brief quotations in critical reviews and certain noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

For more resources visit our website [www.DeeperWalkInternational.org](http://www.DeeperWalkInternational.org)

# Introduction

## KEEPING CHRIST AT THE CENTER OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays can be hectic. As much as we want to make Christ the center of Christmas, it can be a challenge to find ways to build this into the season, even though we would all agree that it's important. *The Deeper Walk Guide to Advent* was written to help you do just this. It's designed with families in mind, especially families with young children and teenagers.

If you are like me and did not grow up in a liturgical church, you may not be familiar with Advent. It is a celebration of Christ's incarnation. Many denominations celebrate Advent: Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, and others. Because of this, some traditions vary.

In general, Advent begins four weeks before Christmas and focuses on a different spiritual theme each Sunday.

If you already have Advent traditions, that's great. Perhaps this book will give you some new ideas. If you have never celebrated Advent before, this book will help you create a fun and spiritually meaningful experience for each week of the season.

	<b>Week 1</b> Abraham: Promise	<b>Week 2</b> Moses: Law	<b>Week 3</b> David: Anointed	<b>Week 4</b> Jesus: New Covenant
2021	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19
2022	Nov. 27	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18
2023	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24
2024	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22

This guide will combine lessons from *The Deeper Walk Guide to the Bible* with traditional Advent themes. If you want to get more out of the process, it can help to read the short overview of the Bible found in that book first.

## ***Candles at a Glance***

### Candle 1 (Week One)

- » **Color:** purple or blue
- » **Theme:** hope
- » **Lesson:** Abraham and the Promise

### Candle 2 (Week Two)

- » **Color:** purple or blue
- » **Theme:** love
- » **Lesson:** Moses and the Law

### Candle 3 (Week Three)

- » **Color:** rose/pink
- » **Theme:** joy
- » **Lesson:** David and the Anointed One

### Candle 4 (Week Four)

- » **Color:** purple or blue
- » **Theme:** peace
- » **Lesson:** Jesus and the New Covenant

### Candle 5 (Christmas Candle)

- » **Color:** white
- » **Theme:** Christ
- » **Lesson:** Christ, the Fulfillment of Our Hopes

## ***How this works***

Each Sunday evening, gather your family around a table and bring out an object to help jump-start a conversation about the theme of the night. With each lesson, you can also bond over a suggested snack/ food element. As you read the devotional, light the candle(s). Conclude the devotional spending some time in prayer as a family. (See the prayer guide included with each lesson.)

One of the goals of *The Deeper Walk Guide to Advent* is to encourage your own creativity in connecting with your family. If you can think of other innovative ways of making these experiences fun or memorable, personalize it as much as possible.

Advent celebrations traditionally focus on a wreath and four or five candles. The four candles are usually tapers. These are lit each Sunday of Advent. The fifth is a pillar candle that is lit on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

**Four taper candles.** Usually there are three purple candles and one rose (or pink) candle. The purple represents the hope of the coming king and a reminder to repent of any known sin that would hinder your worship. The rose candle is lit on the third week and represents the joy of the season.



Advent candles are often sold in packs at Christian book stores, Hobby Lobby, etc. These are usually placed in a wreath in the center of the table. The wreath is optional, but it serves as a reminder of the eternal life Jesus came to offer.

Light a purple candle the first Sunday. Then light the same candle again along with a second purple candle on the second Sunday. The third week, relight these two candles along with the rose/pink candle. Relight all four candles on the final Sunday. By the time you are done, there should be a stair-step look to the candles.

**One white pillar candle.** This candle is optional. It generally sits in the center of the wreath to be lit on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It is known as the Christ candle.

Once the devotional time is done, it is a great opportunity to follow up with some quality family activities like playing games, baking cookies, writing Christmas cards, or watching an inspiring movie.

### ***Advent remembers the original Christmas***

Christmas is a family time. It's about lights and decorations, traditions and music, presents, and food. But if we get beneath the surface, Christmas is about much more. The original Christmas was about an epic story of love and war, hope and despair, ancient promises and a clash of supernatural powers.

The original Christmas was about God's hatred of evil, abuse, oppression, and darkness. It was about His love for the poor, the needy, the sick, and all those who have been beaten down by this world. Advent reminds us of God's long-planned invasion of enemy territory. It began the work of setting captives free and shining light into dark places. He sent His Son into enemy territory to change the world forever. He did all this for you.