



ADVENT FAMILY EXPERIENCE

BE THE LIGHT

WELCOME

Happy Holidays! The Advent Family Experience kit will help your family learn, grow and share together. It is designed to be used by your entire family regardless of age. The theme is "Be the Light." We will travel through the Advent season together as we deepen our faith through activities, songs, scripture and more.

DEVOTION

We encourage you to begin by gathering your family and reading the devotion. Take turns reading out loud allowing all members of the family who are able to read a part.

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus says that his followers are "the light of the world," and our light isn't to be hidden, but to shine and glorify God.

We are called to bring light to the world around us, but what does that look like for you and me? Regular people, doing regular life things – how do we shine our light? What can we do that will reflect God's love? That seems like a job for pastors and religious leaders, not just anyone who loves and follows Jesus.

As hard as it is to believe, it is you and me – the "regular" people – who can change the world with our light. You see, Jesus didn't tell us to preach great sermons from the mountain top or to organize huge religious events. He told us to shine our light. Our light, using the unique gifts and talents God gave us.

Every day we are given opportunities to let our light shine. And every day that looks a little different. Maybe we bring our light to someone who doesn't have any friends to play with at recess by asking them to play. We may bring our light by helping a friend who is going through a rough time by listening and reminding them that we care about them. We may bring our light to family members by helping with chores and telling them how much they mean to us.

Our lights aren't just to shine for people we know, we are called to be a light to the world! Sharing our light for strangers can be as simple as opening the door for someone, saying "thank you" to people who help us, giving food to provide meals for people in need, donating toys or school supplies, or providing coats and blankets to keep people warm.

You see, we don't have to light the entire world by ourselves. If each of us brings our little light to those around us, they receive our light and then they can share it with others. And then one by one, we each spread our light until the darkness is no longer overwhelming. As the darkness is replaced by light, everyone can see God's love.

This Advent season, let's focus on how we can BE THE LIGHT, not just until Christmas Day, but each and every day.

TAKE AWAY

We have opportunities every day to BE THE LIGHT. Jesus calls us to shine our light from a light stand and to not let it be hidden. When we help others, we bring our light to them. Shining our light requires us to pay attention to the needs of others and go out of our way to help make things better. It doesn't require us to do big things – a small act of kindness can go a long way toward blessing someone. Shining our light glorifies God no matter how big or small our action.



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Bag of cinnamon, wood ornament, stocking, metal ring with prayer cover card, Be The Light buttons

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Gather your family to create a Christmas Card Prayer ring. Using the enclosed ring with prayer ring cover page provided in your kit, you will start your prayer ring. As your family receives holiday cards, punch a hole in the card and add it to the ring. Keep your prayer ring with your Christmas decorations from year to year.

ACTIVITY ENGAGEMENT

Invite your family to spend a few minutes each day opening and sharing any holiday and Christmas cards you receive. Punch a hole in each card and add it to the ring. As you add a card, talk about how you know the people who sent the card and the relationship you share with them. Pray for each person/family as you add cards to the ring. Encourage kids to think about who they might want to send a card to this year!

PRAYER TIP

Finding ways to remember all the friends and loved ones we want to pray for regularly can be a great prayer tool. Using your Christmas Card Prayer Ring, rotate through and pray for each person/family whose card is on the ring. If there are other people you would like to add to your prayer list, you can simply write their names on notecards and add them to your ring.

PRAYER

Lord, we give thanks to you this Advent season. Thank you for all that you provide for us.

Thank you for letting us be the light for others. Bless the people in our lives.

Most of all, thank you for Jesus, the true light of the world.

We love you.
Amen

FAMILY SERVE

As the weather gets colder, we have a wonderful opportunity to bring our light to people who are in unstable living situations.

Using two pieces of polar fleece fabric, your family can make a blanket for someone. It's a 'no-sew' project perfect for all ages! You will need to purchase two pieces of polar fleece fabric (two yards each) for the back and front of your blanket.

The blankets will be donated to our ministry partners.

