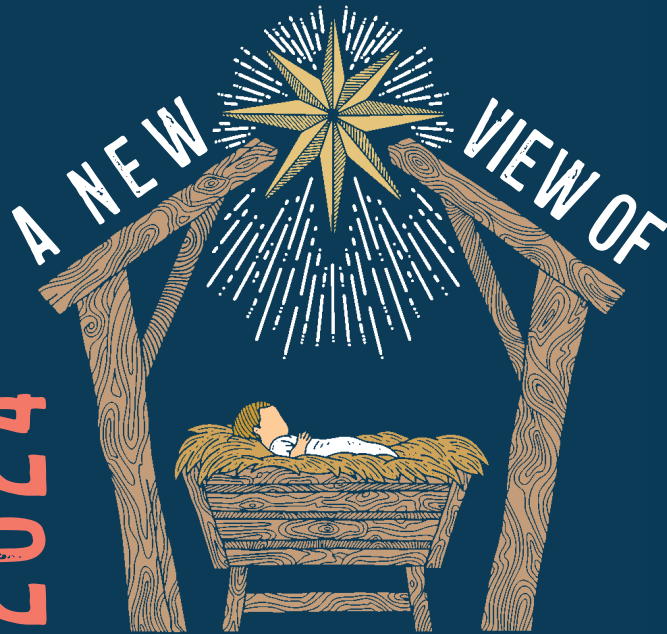


ADVENT

2024



CHRISTMAS



A NEW VIEW TO SEE *The world*

READ: Luke 2:1-38 *We recommend The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible for younger children.

REFLECT: Anna and Simeon marveled to see the Savior with their own eyes. Their years of faithful communion with God gave them spiritual and prophetic insight into what was happening in the world around them. The Redeemer had come to bring salvation to all people. As we wait for Jesus's return, let's follow the example of these godly servants and devote our lives to knowing him.

CANDLE OF HOPE & PROPHECY

DISCUSSION: Why did the Lord reveal Jesus's birth to Anna, Simeon, and others in different ways? How is God revealing himself to you this season?



A NEW VIEW TO SEE *Others*

READ: Romans 10:15-21

REFLECT: Rejoice! Peace on earth has come to all mankind, but what about those who haven't heard? The Bible tells us in Romans that the feet of those who preach the good news are beautiful! As we reflect on Jesus's birth, let's boldly proclaim to others around us the good news and obey the Bible's command to spread the gospel to a hurting world.

CANDLE OF PEACE

DISCUSSION: For whom in your circle of influence can you pray for opportunities to share the good news?

Advent is a special time to celebrate the first coming of Jesus while eagerly anticipating his return. Advent means coming and is a season to thank God for the birth of Jesus and for his presence among us today through the promised Holy Spirit, while also preparing our hearts for his arrival at the end of the age.

M A S

EXPERIENCE: Talking with the Lord.

This week, spend time before a meal praying Luke 2. Thank God for revealing himself to us. Declare: Lord, you came humbly into the world to seek and save mankind. Ask: Lord, would you fill us with your wisdom and grace to love like you and to have hope in your promises like Simeon and Anna?

Use this fun candy idea to share the gospel with your neighbors and friends this season!



EXPERIENCE: Talking with Others

About the Lord. This week, use the idea above, or think of a way your family can be generous to someone using your time, resources, and energy. In your generosity, have a purposeful conversation together about why you are blessing them in this way.



A NEW VIEW TO SEE

Family

READ: Luke 1:39-45

REFLECT: What joy! When Elizabeth heard Mary greeting her, John leapt in her womb. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognized the fulfillment of all that God promised in his Word coming true—and her family got to play a role! The Good Shepherd was on his way. As we praise God for the ways he used humble people during the first Christmas, let's reflect on how God moves in our own families still today.

DISCUSSION: The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts and reveals Jesus as our Savior. How have you felt the Spirit's voice and felt his prompting?

CANDLE OF JOY



A NEW VIEW TO SEE

Myself

READ: Galatians 4:4-7

REFLECT: As a demonstration of his deep love for us, Jesus came at just the right time to fulfill God's redemptive plan. He came to deliver us from our bondage of sin. He elevated us to the place of adopted sons and daughters. He didn't just save us from slavery; He made us part of his family and heirs to God himself. We don't just whisper "daddy," we can boldly cry out, "Abba, Father!" with the same intimacy that Jesus used. As we thank God for the status we have because of his Son, let's remember that Jesus is worthy of celebrating this Christmas!

DISCUSSION: What does it mean to receive adoption as sons and daughters of God who are set free from slavery?

CANDLE OF LOVE

EXPERIENCE: Listen to the Lord for Loving Others. This week, have each person in your family sit and wait on the Lord to highlight a family member or individual who has been influential in his/her life. Then write them a note of gratitude or draw them a picture to bless them with this Christmas.

Join Us CHRISTMAS EVE

3 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

Kid-Friendly Gatherings

6 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight Gathering

EXPERIENCE: Listening to the Lord for Freedom. This week, in the busyness of the Christmas rush, be still and ask the Lord if you are believing any lies about yourself. Ask him to tell you what is true. Remember that sometimes the quiet moments in this season are just as important as the lively ones.

CHRISTMAS DAY

We recognize that Christmas can be a painful time for many. Putting on a brave face is not a requirement. If your family is walking through a challenging season, our prayer for you is Romans 15:13:

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE (ESV).

Through the mountains and the valleys, point your children to the hope of our Savior. Thank him for being our source of hope, declare that it is by his power we can have joy in all circumstances, and ask for his peace to reign in your hearts during the storm.

