

Ideas for your family to Read, Pray & Do during the week 1 of Advent

Read: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Pray: Choose one family or friend to pray for this week who is having a difficult time. Ask God to bring His light and hope into their life. Ask God how your family can be bringers of God's light and hope to them.

Do:

1. Light the Hope candle at your meals together during the week. Read the Isaiah passage every time you light the candle.
2. What do you think it means that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness?
3. What are some of the names for Jesus that Isaiah gives us? What do you think they mean?
4. Isaiah's words are for us too. Is there darkness in our world? How would you describe it? When light shines into darkness, what happens? [it pushes the darkness back]. How does Jesus coming into the world push the darkness back? [He confronted evil and sin and broke its power; He leads us into the light, into life with God]. What are actions, as children of God who walk in His light, that we can take this week that 'push dark things back in our world?' [Love someone who others ignore. Feed someone who is hungry. Choose kindness when we want to be mean.]

Read: the story of the Annunciation together (Luke 1:26:-38).

Pray: "Lord, help us to be like Mary and open up our lives to You. Help us this week to make space for you in our home and time for you in our day so that we, like Mary, might come to know your Son Jesus Christ with ever greater love."

Do:

1. Mary made space for God in her life. She said 'yes' to God even though she didn't know all of what would happen. What are things God asks us to do? How can we say 'yes' to God this week?
2. What are ways that our family can make a space for God in our home? How can we take time to be with God in our home?

Pray: "God, thank you for your living Word, the Bible, and that when we read it together you speak to us. Show us your way, God, this week, that we – like Mary – will be people who say 'yes' to the things you ask of us this day. Amen"