



# COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS!

Advent is a season of expectation—we're eagerly waiting for Christmas day and Jesus' birth. In other words, Advent is a countdown to Christmas!

This Advent Countdown paper chain will help your family count down to Christmas. These simple, super-doable Advent activities will brighten your family's Christmas celebration and help you unwrap merry, bright, *and* meaningful moments together. It includes Bible verses, questions, prayer prompts, and impromptu ways to spark joy and celebrate Jesus!

❄️ Week 1 Theme: Hope   ❄️ Week 2 Theme: Peace   ❄️ Week 3 Theme: Joy   ❄️ Week 4 Theme: Love

It's easy! Simply cut the strips of paper along the dotted lines. Form strip number 1 into a circle (with the words on the outside) and staple or tape it securely. Then loop strip number 2 through the first circle to link them together. Continue looping until you've made a paper chain with 26 circles.

Hang your Advent Countdown paper chain in your home. (Make sure strip number 1 is at the top!) You could put your Advent Countdown paper chain near the kitchen table, on the Christmas tree, or in the hallway near bedrooms. Each day, take turns disconnecting the bottom loop, then read and do or talk about what it says! If you miss a day, no problem! Simply skip ahead or read and do several at one time.

P.S. Advent officially starts on Sunday, November 30. If you begin on that first Sunday of Advent, you'll use all 26 paper strips.



# 26

When we **hope**, we look forward to good things. What good things do you hope to eat for dinner sometime this week? What do you think Jesus would choose for his birthday meal?



# 25

"Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our **hope** is in you alone" (Psalm 33:22). Remember a time your behavior wasn't so lovely. God loved you then, and God loves you now. Pray and thank God for his unfailing love.



# 24

Make a Christmas list. Each person in your family may add three gifts they **hope** to receive. Then recall one thing you each received last Christmas and thank God for that gift.



# 23

"And his name will be the **hope** of all the world" (Matthew 12:21). Name a bunch of countries around the world. Pray for people who will celebrate Jesus' birthday all around the world.



# 22

Pray for someone who is hurting or sad. Ask God to give them **hope** and help. Then send a card or text to let that person know your family cares.



# 21

Complete this sentence in a silly way and a serious way: This Christmas, I **hope** my family...



# 20

If you could meet someone in the Christmas story, would you **hope** to meet an angel or a wise man? Tell why.





# 19

**Peace** is when everything is calm and safe. Who in your community helps your family feel calm and safe? Thank God for those peaceful people.



# 18

"The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with **peace**" (Psalm 29:11). Tell about something hard you faced this week. Thank God for the strength he gave your family to get through those hard things.



# 17

Enjoy 10 minutes of **peace**-and-quiet time where everyone in your family simply rests for a bit. Think with Jesus as you rest, and tell Jesus what you like about him.



# 16

What's more **peaceful** for you: decorating a Christmas tree or decorating Christmas cookies? Tell why.



# 15

What are you worried about today? Take turns sharing and then ask God to calm and bring **peace** to your worries.



# 14

"I am leaving you with a gift—**peace** of mind and heart...So don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27). Jesus said this to help his friends feel better. Remember a time each person in your family helped someone feel better. High-five that person after you share.



# 13

Grown-ups, hold your child's hand and pray this prayer for them: "May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and **peace**" (Galatians 1:3). Then, kids, pray for your grown-ups! Say, "May God give you **peace**."



# 12

**Joy** is when your heart feels full and happy. As a family, jump for **joy**! Laugh, giggle, and have fun as you think of fun and safe ways to jump.



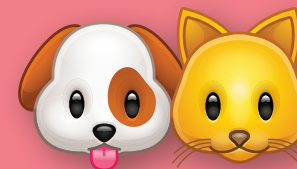
# 11

"I will be filled with **joy** because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High" (Psalm 9:2). Play a favorite praise song. Turn up the music and let your hearts and voices sing along!



# 10

Pets and animals bring **joy** to life! If you could be any animal in the stable when Jesus was born, which animal would you be? Why?



# 9

Together, run and point to favorite things in or outside your home. Things that bring you **joy**. Then thank God for those things.



# 8

"But the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great **joy** to all people. The Savior...has been born today' " (Luke 2:10-11). Imagine you're a shepherd hearing this news. With your face or body, show how you'd react. Why?



# 7

What's your favorite Christmas movie? When or why does that movie spark **joy** in your heart?



# 6

What gift do you think Jesus would ask for on his birthday? What would bring **joy** to his world? Tell why you chose that gift.





5

**Love** is a warm feeling of care and connection. Sit somewhere together as a family and toss a plastic Christmas ornament to each other. When you toss it to someone, say one thing you love about that person.



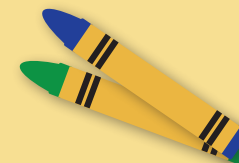
4

“For this is how God **loved** the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Pray and thank God for his never-stopping **love**.



3

Draw a picture for Jesus. Consider it a **loving** birthday gift! Show your family what you drew, then hang all the drawings in a special place.



2

Gather round and watch the Christmas story! Scan this code or visit <https://mylifetree.com/the-shepherds> and watch the shepherds tell about Jesus' **love**.



1

Celebrate! It's Jesus' birthday! Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus before opening presents. After presents are open, pray and thank God for each person in your family. Enjoy your **love** for each other today!

