

TAKING FAITH HOME

ADVENT IS A SEASON FOR WAITING AND WATCHING

1 December 2013



mealtime prayer

Lord Jesus, please bless our Advent eating and our Advent waiting. Give us hearts that are ready and faith that is steady. Amen.

verse for the week

"So always be ready, because you don't know the day your Lord will come."

MATTHEW 24:42 (NCV)

blessing

May you wait and watch for Jesus. May your faith burn bright each and every day. Amen.

FAITH 5™ FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME



share your highs and lows of the day or discuss some of the questions from the **FOURKEYS** caring conversations.



read and highlight a passage of scripture in your Bible. These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation
Monday	Matthew 24:1-14	Don't be deceived
Tuesday	Matthew 24:23-35	The end is coming
Wednesday	Matthew 24:45-51	The faithful servant
Thursday	Luke 17:22-37	The coming of the Son of Man
Friday	Joel 3:14-21	The day of the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 124	We have escaped like a bird
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord



talk about how the Bible passage relates to your highs and lows or discuss some of the ideas in **FOURKEYS** devotions.



pray for your highs and lows, for your family, and for the world.



bless one another using the above blessing or make up your own.

FOURKEYS

for practising faith



1. caring conversations

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you were waiting for something or someone to come.
- Jesus asks his followers to be ready as he could return at any time (Matthew 24:42). How do we stay ready for Jesus?
- How would you describe yourself as a Christian right now – tired, sleepy, awake or alert?



2. devotions

Set up an Advent wreath to use in your home in the weeks leading up to Christmas. An Advent wreath contains 5 candles, 4 in a circle and 1 in the centre. The circle represents the eternity of God, and the 4 candles are usually blue or purple. The centre candle is usually white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In the first week of Advent light the first candle, and say these words:

SAY: This is the first week of Advent. Advent means "coming". We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of waiting. (The candle is lit).

READ: Read one of the following verses: Matthew 24:42, Matthew 24:44, Romans 13:12, Luke 12:35, Colossians 4:2, Psalm 130:5, Psalm 130:6, Matthew 3:3.

PRAY: Let us pray: **Lord God, thank you for Advent. In this season of waiting, make us ready for Jesus to return. Amen.**



3. service

1 December is World AIDS Day. Did you know that there are well over 20 million children and youth across the world who have lost both their parents to this disease? Over half of these live in sub-Saharan Africa. Talk about how you can raise awareness of this sad situation. Plan to make a Christmas donation through www.aidsorphans.org or organise a fundraiser to support those who are caring for AIDS orphans.



4. rituals & traditions

Make a paper chain with a link for each day of December up to Christmas Day. Write one of the instructions listed below on each link. Remove a link each day and do what it says:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Share: "What gives you peace?" | 13. Tell the nativity story to each other. |
| 2. Share: "What gives you joy?" | 14. Prepare Christmas cards to give out. |
| 3. Share: "What gives you hope?" | 15. Read Isaiah 7:14. |
| 4. Share compliments with each other. | 16. Sing another Christmas carol. |
| 5. Read Jeremiah 33:14-16. | 17. Do deeds of service for each other. |
| 6. Share hugs with one another. | 18. Share a Christmas food. |
| 7. Share good Christmas memories. | 19. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. |
| 8. Read Isaiah 11:1-3. | 20. Go for a walk together. |
| 9. Play a game together. | 21. Draw a Christmas picture together. |
| 10. Sing a Christmas carol. | 22. Read Luke 1:26-38. |
| 11. Share what you like about Christmas. | 23. Read Matthew 1:18-24. |
| 12. Read Micah 5:2-4. | 24. Read Luke 2:1-7 |



Developed by Pastor Greg Priebbenow (St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bundaberg) in partnership with Lutheran Church of Australia, Grow Ministries.
FOR USE SOLELY IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

