

Advent: A Time of Waiting

By Jolene Roehlkepartain

The four weeks before Christmas is known as the season of Advent in the church. It's a time of waiting and preparation. As a family, talk about how to wait well.

For

Teen Family

Season

Winter

Needed

Bible, four candles and matches, blog article [Celebrating The Waiting: Why Advent Still Matters](#)



Prepare in Advance

- Mark your Bible to Psalm 27:14 and Lamentations 3:25 (or see the text below)
- Gather needed materials as listed above

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, be with us during our times of waiting. Amen.

2. Ask someone to read aloud Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord ; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Then ask another family member to read aloud Lamentations 3:25 "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."

3. As a family, read the blog article [Celebrating The Waiting: Why Advent Still Matters](#). Discuss these questions:
 - What does Advent mean to you?
 - Is the season of Advent relevant for today? Why or why not?
 - What has been your past experience of Advent?
 - What gives Advent meaning?
 - When do you find yourself waiting?
 - How do you wait well?
4. Mark the four Sundays of Advent by lighting a candle each week and reading the corresponding scripture:
 - Four Sundays before Christmas—Light one candle. Read aloud Isaiah 40:1-11.
 - Three Sundays before Christmas—Light two candles. Read aloud Luke 1:68-79.
 - Two Sundays before Christmas—Light three candles. Read aloud Philippians 4:4-7.
 - One Sunday before Christmas—Light four candles. Read aloud Luke 1:26-38.
 - On Christmas Day (or Christmas Eve)—Light one candle. Read aloud Luke 2:1-20.
5. During Advent (and other times of waiting), talk about how to wait well and how to be patient.