



*an*  
*Advent*  
*journey*

a family guide



A FAMILY TIME TRAINING RESOURCE

**AN ADVENT  
JOURNEY**





*an*  
*Advent*  
*journey*

a family guide



An Advent Journey: A Family Guide

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# *Contents*

<i>Introduction</i>	7
<i>Materials List</i>	9
<b>Week 1: Mary's Journey</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Week 2: The Wisemen's Journey</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Week 3: Mary &amp; Joseph: a Parent's Journey</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Week 4: The Shepherds' Journey</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>Bonus Activity: God Is Our Guide on Every Journey</i>	49



# *Introduction*

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

This is always a sweet season, especially with little ones at home. The smells, sights and sounds of the season are unlike any other time of the year and children remind us of the wonder.

We count it a great joy and privilege to take your family on a journey this advent! In the weeks leading up to Christmas, you'll learn more about the journeys God took various people on as they anticipated the birth of Jesus... some without even knowing it!

In addition to the rich Biblical story of the birth of Christ Jesus, we want your family to explore the journeys of various missionaries who God has called to different people and places around the globe.

Lastly, we hope you can reflect on your own family's journey and how God has shown you **His faithfulness, generosity, joy and love** throughout your lives and even during this Christmas season. Each week you will be taking a mini-journey in your home or around town to really play up the theme!

Christmas can be busy, so give yourself permission to slow down and enjoy the journey through the weeks ahead as a family. Carve out time to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and the God who came to journey among us. Emmanuel.

Praying for you,

**Jenna Hallock**

Executive Director  
Family Time Training  
[www.famtime.com](http://www.famtime.com)

PS. We are so grateful for the talent and work of Beth Meverden. She has prayerfully crafted the activities in this Advent Guide as well as others in the Family Time Training Resource library. You can read more from her at [famtime.com/blog](http://famtime.com/blog) and follow her on social media @trainingyourchild.



# *Materials List*

## **Weekly:**

- Set of Advent candles
- Matches or lighter
- Advent Countdown cards (printables and template at [famtime.com/adventjourney](http://famtime.com/adventjourney))
- *Joshua 1:9* scripture card

## **Lesson One:**

- Batch of Christmas cookies (or other treat that you can break a crumb from)
- Plate to place the treat on
- Key and corresponding lock
- String, yarn or ribbon

### **IN ADVANCE:**

1. Bake a batch of Christmas cookies your children love.
2. Break a crumb from one of the cookies and keep it near your advent candles.
3. Place the cookies on a plate or other container.
4. Tie a key to the end of a very long string for each child.
5. Place the key(s) near the advent candles then take the ball of string or yarn and wind it all around the house until you reach the door (or padlock) the key will unlock.
6. Place the plate of cookies behind the door each child will unlock (or in a container the padlock will be locked on).

## **Lesson Two:**

- Paper crown or fancy ring (Items that symbolize Jesus as King)
- Bible or playdough (Items that symbolize God as Father/Creator)
- Cross (items that symbolize God as Savior)

### **IN ADVANCE:**

1. Think ahead of time of items that symbolize Jesus as King, God, and Savior that you could collect for the Scavenger Hunt. We suggest

## 10 An Advent Journey

items like a paper crown to symbolize Jesus as King, play dough to symbolize Jesus as God the Creator, and a cross to symbolize Jesus as Savior.

2. Think of a time when God has shown Himself to be generous (a job opportunity, starting a friendship to lead someone to Christ, helping to start a church, etc).

### Lesson Three:

- A “treasure” for your children to find at the end of the treasure hunt path (small sketchbook and new pack of pencils or their favorite toy, a small coupon book for special outings with Mom and Dad, etc.)
- Masking tape
- Marker
- Heavy shoes, books or other heavy items from around the house
- Empty backpack for each child

### IN ADVANCE:

1. Using small pieces of masking tape, make a path for your children to follow around your house that ends in your kitchen. You can also make arrows with the tape to point the way you want your children to go.
2. Wrap a treasure for each child to find at the end of the path. We suggest a small sketch book and pack of pencils you could find at a dollar store, their favorite toy, a small coupon book for special outings with Mom and Dad (i.e take a walk with Mom, watch a show with Dad, play a family game, 15 minutes later bedtime for extra cuddles).
3. Collect a pile of heavy shoes/books that will fill up the backpacks to make them heavy (or use another item that you can place masking tape on that will be heavy in your children’s backpacks).
4. Find a town that is about 90 miles from your house to use as an illustration.

### Lesson Four:

- Cardstock labeled “Our Town”
- Printed or digital map of your town
- 2 different colored highlighters
- Paper and pen/pencil
- *Optional: Device with internet connection*

**IN ADVANCE:**

1. OPTION 1 (hardcopy): Print a copy of a map of your town or draw a map on the "Our Town" page provided at [famtime.com/AdventJourney](http://famtime.com/AdventJourney).
2. OPTION 2 (online): Search for an online map and type in your home address. Your child will be using that map to find different places around town.

**Bonus Activity:**

- Index cards or small pieces of paper
- Prize for the end of the in-home adventure journey (i.e. a craft to make together, a recipe for a treat or meal you could make together, a movie to watch together)

**IN ADVANCE:**

1. Decide whether you will go on an adventure journey around town or in your home.
2. USING THE PROVIDED CLUES: Number the clues in order of where you want to go, starting with the first clue and ending at your journey's destination. As you read through the clues, you will be able to decide which locations are closer to each other and a good route to take your children on this journey. You can skip clues that don't make sense for your family or town or add your own clues.
3. USING YOUR OWN CLUES: Write clues on slips of paper that will lead your children from place to place until you reach a determined destination.



Week One

# Mary's Journey



## TEACHING GOAL

To understand that we can hope in God because He is trustworthy



## SCRIPTURES

**Luke 1:1-56** - *At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" (vv. 39-42)*

**Joshua 1:9** - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*



## MATERIALS

- Batch of Christmas cookies (or other treat that you can break a crumb from)
- Plate to place the treat on

## 14 An Advent Journey

- Key and corresponding lock
- String, yarn or ribbon



### IN ADVANCE

1. Bake a batch of Christmas cookies your children love.
2. Break a crumb from one of the cookies and keep it near your advent candles.
3. Place the cookies on a plate or other container.
4. Tie a key to the end of a very long string for each child.
5. Place the key(s) near the advent candles then take the ball of string or yarn and wind it all around the house until you reach the door (or padlock) the key will unlock.
6. Place the plate of cookies behind the door each child will unlock (or in a container the padlock will be locked on).

**NOTE:** Words written in **BOLD** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.



### INTRODUCTION

**Does anyone know what “advent” means?**

Allow for answers.

**Advent takes us on a journey of hope and anticipation to the celebration of Jesus’ birth on December 25. We start celebrating advent four Sundays before Christmas and we continue until Christmas Day.**



Light the first candle.

**Each week we will light a different candle that represents something special about God. This week’s candle represents**

**God's trustworthiness. We can place our hope in God because He has proven to be trustworthy through all time and through His Word. We have found Him to be trustworthy in our lives too.**

Take some time to share examples of how God has been trustworthy in your family (providing for medical bills, getting a job right before things got desperate, always being with you through trials, etc.).



## PRAY

**Lord God, You are our hope. We are so grateful that You have proven Yourself to be trustworthy over and over in our lives. Help us to see how you were trustworthy in Mary's journey too. Thank You for this time together. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**



## DISCUSSION & SCRIPTURE READING

**Today we are going to learn about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and a journey that God took her on. The angel who speaks to Mary gives her evidence (or proof) that what he is telling her is true. Let's read this Scripture together and listen to the evidence Mary is given that will prove what the angel says will happen.**

Invite someone to read *Luke 1:26-38*.

**What is the evidence Mary is given that she would give birth to Jesus?**

Listen to the answers. *Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. (Luke 1:36)*

**God didn't have to give Mary any evidence, she already trusted Him and was willing to serve and obey Him. But she could go see THIS miracle for herself and know that all the angel said was true.**

## 16 An Advent Journey

This is a big deal because in *Luke 1:7*, it says that Elizabeth was unable to have children and that she and her husband, Zechariah, were **VERY** old. Think of someone your children know who is 70+ years old. That's about how old Elizabeth probably was.

It would have to be a miracle from God for Elizabeth and Zechariah to have a baby. If Mary went on a JOURNEY to see Elizabeth and she was pregnant in her old age, Mary could trust that what God said about her would be true, as well.

Right after the angel, Gabriel, told Mary about Elizabeth, he said, "*For no word from God will ever fail.*" (Luke 1:37) The New Living Translation of the Bible says it this way, "*For nothing is impossible with God.*"

If God says something is true, it is true... even if it seems impossible to us.

If I tell you that I have (baked a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies), how do you know that it is true?

Allow for answers. *Hopefully you know that you can trust me that what I say is true.*

I have proven myself trustworthy to you. You know that if I tell you that you are going to get something special that will happen.

God is infinitely more trustworthy than I am! He never forgets what He says will happen and He is always with us, guiding us along the way to what He has promised.

Here is some "evidence" that shows what I said is true.

Give your children a crumb of the cookies you baked, but only a crumb.

What do you think this is evidence of?

Listen to answers. *That there are cookies in the house; that mom/dad is trustworthy.*



## ACTIVITY

Hand your children the key(s) tied to the strings.

**If you follow this string, you will find out what this key opens. You will also find the answer to the evidence. This evidence is proof that what I tell you can be trusted. Let's go on a journey like Mary so you can see for yourself that what I said is true.**

Follow your children as they find the lock and their treat.

**While you enjoy this little treat, let's read what Mary did after Gabriel spoke to her.**

Invite someone to read *Luke 1:39-45*.

**By telling Mary about Elizabeth being pregnant, the angel Gabriel sent her on a journey to see for herself that what he told her was true. Mary trusted God and believed what He said through the angel, Gabriel. She showed her trust in God by going on a journey to see Elizabeth herself.**

**It was a long journey. She probably traveled with other people to keep her safe. It was very brave of Mary to take God at His word and follow His evidence on this journey to discover His words were true.**

**After seeing Elizabeth and hearing Elizabeth's confirmation that God would be blessing her with Jesus, she sang a song.**

Read *Luke 1:46-56*.

**No matter what God calls us to do, He will be with us through it. He told Mary the truth and God does the same for us.**

**We are going to memorize a verse together this advent that will remind us that we are on an Advent journey!**

### **Family Memory Verse**

*Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*



### **APPLICATION**

In the Old Testament story surrounding Joshua 1:9, God was talking to Joshua. Moses died and now Joshua was in charge of leading God's people into the land He promised them. Joshua trusted God because He had shown Himself faithful over and over. Now God was telling Joshua to be strong and courageous, not afraid or discouraged. God would be WITH His people on this journey to the land He promised them.

God is also with us. One of the names of Jesus is Emmanuel (Isaiah 9:6) which means "God with Us." Just before Jesus left His disciples and ascended into heaven, He said, "*I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:20b)

As we celebrate the advent of Jesus and are journeying toward celebrating His birth, this verse reminds us He is with us no matter where He calls us to go.



### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, Thank You for being trustworthy and giving us evidence of you through your Word and in our lives. Help us to trust you on our own journey through life just like Mary did. In Your Name, Amen.

## A MISSIONARY JOURNEY

We have some Family Time Training friends who God called on a long journey. God called these people to be international missionaries. We are going to learn about a different missionary family each week and spend the week praying for this family and the ministry they are doing.

God has proven Himself trustworthy to this family and they followed His leading in their lives, like Mary did and like we are to do.

We interviewed these missionaries. Here's what they told us in their own words...

### Meet Dr. Andy & June (Junko) Meeko

*Who is in your family?*

Our kids are all grown: Pearl, Evan, Sophia, and Serene

*Where do you serve?*

We serve in Japan and beyond, a lot of stuff in "cyberland" (online ministry)!

*What is the focus of your ministry there?*

We help people not to just be believers but real disciples of Jesus who make other disciples of Jesus. We do a lot for kids too with manga (a style of Japanese comic books), we have a pocket manga to share Jesus, we have an awesome fun discipleship series, and we will soon have a mobile app with gamified manga to share Jesus too.

*How did you know God was calling you to the journey of serving there?*

I grew up as a missionary kid in Tokyo and never wanted to be a missionary myself, but in college God kept reminding me of lonely and hopeless people riding the trains in Tokyo and I wanted to do something about it.

## 20 An Advent Journey

*What is something you want the families doing this advent activity to think about as they listen for God's leading in their lives?*

One third of the world has no chance to hear about Jesus whatsoever. If you meet 100 Japanese people it is likely none of them know Jesus, not even one.

*How can we pray for you and your ministry?*

Our Treasure Hunt Project keeps growing (15 languages now) but we need more people and resources.

*You can learn more about the Meeko's ministry at:  
<http://www.treasurehuntproject.com>.*

**Let's spend some time praying for this family today and we'll pray for them each day this week.**

Week Two

# *The Wisemen's Journey*



## TEACHING GOAL

To understand that Jesus is a generous King, God, and Savior



## SCRIPTURES

**Matthew 2:1-12** - *After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (v. 9-11)*



## MATERIALS

- Paper crown or fancy ring (Items that symbolize Jesus as King)
- Bible or playdough (Items that symbolize God as Father/Creator)
- Cross (items that symbolize God as Savior)

## 22 An Advent Journey



### IN ADVANCE

1. Think ahead of time of items that symbolize Jesus as King, God, and Savior that you could collect for your journey. We suggest items like a paper crown to symbolize Jesus as King, play dough to symbolize Jesus as God the Creator, and a cross to symbolize Jesus as Savior.

**NOTE:** Words written in **BOLD** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.



### INTRODUCTION

**What did we learn from Mary's journey to see Elizabeth last week?**

**Listen to answers.** *We can place our hope in God. God proves Himself to be trustworthy and with us.*



Light the first and second candles.

**Our candle from *last* week reminds us that God is trustworthy. This week our candle will remind us that God is generous. No matter what happens in our lives, we can know that God has the power to give us everything we need and provides abundantly because He is King of the universe and Savior of the world!**



### PRAY

**Lord God, Thank You that You are generous. Thank you for giving us what we need even sometimes what we want because You love us. Thank you for being generous to us even when we don't deserve it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**



## DISCUSSION & SCRIPTURE READING

Today we're going to learn about some unexpected visitors who journeyed a long way to celebrate Jesus' birth. These travelers followed a star to welcome a king that was to be born in Israel. Do you know who they are? *The wisemen.*

Though Mary and Joseph didn't know these men would be coming, Jesus' Heavenly Father knew. God the Father invited them to celebrate Jesus' birth. He did that by putting the idea in these men's minds that Jesus' birth was important. He showed them it was significant enough that they should leave their lives, their jobs, their comforts, and everything they knew to journey to a faraway country. He inspired them make sure this new King was honored with beautiful and generous gifts.

Their journey was long, it was through the desert, it was a sacrifice, it was dangerous, and, when they arrived in Israel, they didn't get what they expected. Listen for all the different people mentioned, what they knew of Jesus' birth, and how they responded to it.

*Invite someone to read Matthew 2:1-12.*

**Who were all the people mentioned in this part of Jesus' birth story?**

Listen to answers. *Magi, King Herod, all the people in Jerusalem, chief priests, teachers of the law, the child, Mary, the angel who warned them in a dream.*

**How did each of those people react to the news of Jesus' birth?**

Listen to answers. *The Magi were convinced it was true – enough to journey a long way. King Herod and all Jerusalem were disturbed. King Herod was convinced and sent the Magi asking them to come back and report to him so he could go “worship” the Messiah. The Magi were overjoyed when they saw the star and humbly worshipped Jesus when they found Him, then they listened to the dream they had telling them not to go back to King Herod.*

## 24 An Advent Journey

When we hear that a baby has been born, we are excited and are happy to celebrate that little life. When we go to a birthday party, we bring gifts to give to the one we are celebrating. What are the beautiful, generous gifts the Magi brought to give to Jesus?

Listen to answers. *Gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

Each of these generous gifts represented something about who Jesus was.<sup>1</sup>

- Gold was a symbol of Jesus' kingship.
- Frankincense was a symbol of Jesus' deity (being God).
- Myrrh was a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice (paying for the sins of all people as our Savior).

Those are some powerful and extravagant gifts!



Let's take a journey around our home to find "gifts" that symbolize Jesus being King, God and Savior to bring to Jesus like the Magi did. Each of us will find something that is a symbol that Jesus is our:

- King
- God
- Savior

Work together until everyone finds three gifts.

When everyone brings three gifts back, have each family member share why they chose each gift to give to Jesus.

If you have a Christmas tree, place all the gifts beneath the tree to remind you of these gifts of God.

<sup>1</sup> Scott James, November 16, 2020, [crosswalk.com](https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/gold-frankincense-and-myrrh.html), Accessed January 22, 2021, <https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/gold-frankincense-and-myrrh.html>



## APPLICATION

God is a generous King who is kind and merciful. He is a generous God who allows us access to Him through prayer and uses His strength to provide for us and protect us. God is a generous Savior who sacrificed *everything* for us. He paid the penalty for every sin for all time and He didn't have to. He is just *that generous*.

During this season of giving, it's good for us to recognize how generous God has been with us. It's good for us to think of the journey the wisemen went on and their generosity - God planned it so Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have the resources they needed.

How can we be generous like God has been with us and like the wisemen were with baby Jesus?

Allow for answers.

Practice your memory verse together:

### Family Memory Verse

*Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*



## CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank You for faithfully being generous to us! We trust you as King, God, and Savior. As we journey closer to Christmas day, help us to be generous to others in Your name. Amen.

## A MISSIONARY STORY

**We have some Family Time Training friends who God called on a long journey. God called these people to be international missionaries. We are going to learn about a different missionary family each week and spend the week praying for this family and the ministry they are doing.**

**God has proven Himself faithful and generous to this family and they followed His leading in their lives, like the Magi did.**

**We interviewed these missionaries. Here's what they told us in their own words...**

### Meet Mxolisi, Erica, Simeon, Nom'sa & baby Myeni

*Where do you serve as missionaries/international workers?*

We serve in the rural, Southern part of Eswatini in Africa. Our ministry is Wetsembekile Ministries (pronounced way-tsem-bay-gui-lay) and it means "God is faithful."

*What is the focus of your ministry there?*

Our vision is to see healthy Swazi churches reaching & taking care of their own communities...but because there aren't healthy churches, yet, and the poverty and need is so great, we have to start at square one. We serve communities in need through water projects, gardens, feeding programs and community centers. We reach individuals with the Gospel by doing home visits and getting to know individuals in their circumstances. We strengthen the local church by distributing Bibles to individuals and families, hosting Bible fun days to teach people about the Bible, get resources to churches and help with preaching, training and speaking at churches.

*How did you know God was calling you to the journey of serving there?*

Mxolisi grew up near the area we serve and has seen the need his whole life. He often says "if the church in Africa was healthy, there wouldn't need to be as many non-profits, so that is why we are pouring ourselves into building up the local church!". Erica started serving in Eswatini in 2009 after

-serving many years in ministry in Colorado. As she continued to serve periodically over there, God wouldn't let that rural part of the country out of her mind or off of her heart. She moved over full time in late 2011 to serve in the community.

*What is something you want the families doing this advent activity to think about as they listen for God's leading in their lives?*

As you listen for God's leading in your life, especially during the Advent season, ask yourself if you are more excited about God than any Christmas tradition, presents, or meal. When we are excited about knowing God more, then His leading in our lives is an invitation to watch from the front row what He wants to do in us and through us to reach people with the Gospel.

*How can we pray for you and your ministry?*

Please pray for our family as we adjust to adding our newest baby and moving back to Africa full-time. Please pray for our ministry to be faithful to the role God has called it to, even when we are overwhelmed by the needs there. Also pray that every time people see the name of our ministry (Wetsembekile) that they would remember that God is faithful and has shown His faithfulness to them by sending Christ for them.

Where can families find you online to connect with you and support your ministry?

Our website is [www.wetsembekile.org](http://www.wetsembekile.org) or you can find us on Facebook (Erica Zeiler Myeni or Mxolisi Myeni).

**Let's spend some time praying for this family today and we'll pray for them each day this week.**



Week Three

# *Mary & Joseph:* a Parent's Journey



## TEACHING GOAL

To understand that we have joy no matter what we are facing



## SCRIPTURES

**Luke 2:1-7** - *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.*

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

**Romans 8:28** - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

## 30 An Advent Journey

**Titus 3:4-7** - *But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*



### MATERIALS

- A small gift for your children to find at the end of the path (small sketchbook and new pack of pencils or their favorite toy, a small coupon book for special outings with Mom and Dad, etc.)
- Masking tape
- Marker
- Heavy shoes, books or other heavy items from around the house
- Empty backpack for each child



### IN ADVANCE

1. Using small pieces of masking tape, make a path for your children to follow around your house that ends in your kitchen. You can also make arrows with the tape to point the way you want your children to go.
2. Wrap a treasure for each child to find at the end of the path. We suggest a small sketch book and pack of pencils you could find at a dollar store, their favorite toy, a small coupon book for special outings with Mom and Dad (i.e take a walk with Mom, watch a show with Dad, play a family game, 15 minutes later bedtime for extra cuddles).
3. Collect a pile of heavy shoes/books that will fill up the backpacks to make them heavy (or use another item that you can place masking tape on that will be heavy in your children's backpacks).
4. Find a town that is about 90 miles from your house to use as an illustration.

**NOTE:** Words written in **BOLD** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.



## INTRODUCTION

**What did we learn about from the story of the wisemen last week?**

Listen to answers. *We can have faith in God because He is our generous King, God, and Savior.*



Light the first, second, and third candles.

**Our first candle reminds us that God is trustworthy. Our second candle reminds us that God is generous. This week our candle will remind us that God is our joy.**



## PRAY

**Lord God, Thank You that You are our joy. No matter what we feel, we always have a reason to be joyful because of the gift of Jesus in our lives. Remind us as we continue to journey to Christmas Day that you are the only thing that brings true JOY. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**



## DISCUSSION & SCRIPTURE READING

**Today we're going to learn about what it means to have joy no matter the situation we are facing. Let's read about a family who took a journey at a very uncomfortable time.**

Read *Luke 2:1-7* together.

## 32 An Advent Journey

**Why was this an uncomfortable time for this family?**

Listen to answers. *Mary was pregnant.*

**It is about 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Because they were walking, it would have taken them from four to nine days to walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem.**

**It would have been like us walking from our house to** (mention the name of the place you've chosen that is 90 miles from your house).



### ACTIVITY

**When we go on a journey, what do we take with us?** Brainstorm together and talk about why you take those things along.

**We are going to go on a journey today, but first we have to pack our bags.**

Give each child an empty backpack.

**Mary and Joseph had to pack for their journey. What do you think they took with them?** Listen to answers. *Food, blankets, medicine, water, clothes and things for the baby Jesus.*

**Mary and Joseph were also carrying burdens with them as they went on their journey. Sometimes it isn't physical things that weigh us down, but things we can't see, that we feel in our hearts and minds.**

**What were the heavy burdens they had to carry?** Listen to answers. *Pregnancy, leaving family, fear of the wilderness, Mary being pregnant before they were married.*

Use a marker to write the answers on pieces of masking tape then put the tape on the bottom of a shoe/book and distribute them evenly among the backpacks the children will wear.

When you've completed your list and the backpacks are full, make sure that each backpack is heavy and have each child put on their backpack.

**We are going to carry these heavy backpacks of burdens following the path I laid out for us through our house. It will take awhile and your backpack might get heavy, but you can have joy knowing that you have a treasure/gift waiting at the end of this journey!**

**No matter how hard their journey was, Mary and Joseph had joy knowing the baby would be born soon. They trusted God and had faith that what He told them would come true; that they would raise the Son of God, Jesus, our Savior. Because of Jesus, we ALWAYS have a reason to be joyful.**

**Ok, let's start our journey!**

Have the children follow the tape path to the treasure. As you come to each arrow on the ground, stop and write something joyful about your family/home/journey. Invite children to share their ideas! When the children arrive at their treasure, help them unload their backpacks.

**When Mary and Joseph reached the end of their journey to Bethlehem and baby Jesus was born, there were still hard things to face, but they had the joy of having Jesus safe and with them.**

Tip: You can decide if you want your children to open their gifts at this point or wait until after Family Time so they won't be distracted.



## **APPLICATION**

**Sometimes we go through tough times. We hear sad news, someone we love is sick, we don't get the teacher we wanted in school, or we have to struggle to learn something (give an example each child has dealt with). No matter what we have to go through, we can be like Mary and Joseph and have joy throughout the journey we are on with Jesus.**

**We know that God has good plans for us. *Romans 8:28* says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."**

## **34 An Advent Journey**

Some things we go through don't feel good at the time, but we know God is with us and that can bring us joy. We can remember the joyful things we thought of on our journey today too when things are hard.

We get gifts at Christmas, but the best gift of Christmas is Jesus Himself. He was born to give Himself as a gift to us so we can live with Him eternally and be with Him in this life, too.

Just like Mary and Joseph looked forward with joy to being with Jesus, we can, too. We look forward to celebrating His birthday together and we look forward to being with Him eternally in heaven!

As we celebrate the advent of Jesus and are journeying toward celebrating His birth, we can remember that no matter what journey we are on, God will be with us.

Let's practice our Scripture memory verse:

### **Family Memory Verse**

*Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*



### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, Thank You for being our joy and for giving us reason to rejoice in this season. In Your Name, Amen

## A MISSIONARY STORY

**We have some Family Time Training friends who God called on a long journey. God called these people to be international missionaries.**

**God has proven Himself to be this family's joy and purpose.**

**We interviewed these missionaries. Here's what they told us in their own words...**

### Meet John and Laurie López

*Where do you serve?*

We serve in Medellín, Colombia.

*What is the focus of your ministry?*

We minister to Children at Risk and their families. We offer:

- Bible classes, discipleship/mentoring
- English classes
- Art classes
- Homework assistance
- Bible classes for parents

We are also beginning to build a library to provide a safe place for the children to come hang out, read, or listen to stories.

We also have a church plant. We are partnering with another mission agency that works in the neighborhood to plant a church.

*How did you know God was calling you to this mission?*

I, Laurie, was working at Multnomah Bible College and Biblical Seminary and frequently took teams to work with a ministry in Medellín. Each year I had a growing desire to spend more time there. In 2009, I was asked to join the ministry in Medellín, and I began to pray about it. My main desire was to know that it was truly God calling me and not my desirous heart. Honestly, it did not make sense to leave a stable job

## 36 An Advent Journey

in 2009 (recession) to raise support to go to the mission field unless it truly was God's desire. And so, I prayed. I asked God to make it clear whether or not it was His will. Two days after praying that prayer I was called into my boss' office and told that due to the economy they were needing to cut several positions, and mine was one of them. At that point I began the process with WorldVenture to go to Medellín. While there have been some struggles, I have never doubted that I am exactly where God wants me to be.

John left his family farm near Medellín, Colombia in 2006. As a young man from the country, life was not immediately easy in the big city. One day, while working in a family business, he sensed that God had more for him; perhaps to pastor a church or be a missionary. After interacting with a pastor in the church he was attending, he had a sense that he was called to go to seminary. While he did not have any idea how he would pay for seminary, he went in obedience to the call. During his time in the seminary he began to work in our ministry as a volunteer.

### *A glimpse into Christmas in Columbia...*

Christmas...Navidad...what do you think about related to this season? For many of us we have many traditions and memories tied to Christmas - family dinner, Christmas cookies, gifts, snow, Santa, etc. Colombia, where we work, has a custom where the children are told that baby Jesus is the One who brings them Christmas gifts. The children excitedly go to bed with great expectation that baby Jesus will bring them all the things they desire. As I (Laurie) contemplate this custom, I have mixed feelings. What an incredible picture of the gospel message...and yet, many completely miss it. Many are so wrapped up in the materialism of today that they miss the truth that baby Jesus truly has come to bring all that we desire...all that we could ever need or want...the BEST Christmas gift ever. As you reflect on this Christmas season, I encourage you to reflect on the magnitude of the amazing gift that baby Jesus came to give - "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus

Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:4-7).

*How can we pray for your ministry?*

- Pray for the children in our ministry. Many of them are not able to eat every day. Pray that God would meet their physical needs. Pray too for their spiritual needs; that they would truly hear the gospel message and respond.
- Pray for the families of our children. Many are single parents and are working hard to simply survive.
- Pray for the neighborhood in which we work. There is frequent gang violence.
- Pray for our church plant. That we would not only grow in numbers, but that the people would grow in their faith.
- Pray for us as we continue to work in this neighborhood – our own spiritual growth, protection, wisdom, and a deep love for the gospel and the people with whom we work.

We can be reached online through [WorldVenture.com](http://WorldVenture.com) and click on Search Workers. Then type “John and Laurie López” in the search box.

**Let's spend some time praying for this family today and we'll pray for them each day this week.**



Week Four

# *The Shepherds' Journey*



## TEACHING GOAL

**To understand that God shares his love with us so we can share his love with others**



## SCRIPTURES

**Luke 2:8-20** - *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. (v. 15-18)*

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**2 Corinthians 1:8-11** - *We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.*

## 40 An Advent Journey

*He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.*



### MATERIALS

- Cardstock labeled “Our Town”
- Printed or digital map of your town
- 2 different colored highlighters
- Paper and pen/pencil
- Optional: Device with internet connection



### IN ADVANCE

1. **OPTION 1** (hardcopy): Print a copy of a map of your town or draw a map on the “Our Town” page provided at [famtime.com/AdventJourney](http://famtime.com/AdventJourney).
2. **OPTION 2** (online): Search for an online map and type in your home address. Your child will be using that map to find different places around town.

**NOTE:** Words written in **BOLD** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.



### INTRODUCTION

**What did we learn about from the story of Mary and Joseph last week?** *Jesus is our JOY.*



Light all four Advent candles.

Our first candle reminds us that God is trustworthy. Our second candle reminds us that God is generous. Our third candle reminds us that Jesus is our joy. Today, we are reminded that God gives us LOVE for our journey so that we can share it with others.



## PRAY

Lord God, Thank You for your love. Thank You that Your love is so big and strong and wonderful! Help us to see your love in the gift of Jesus this Christmas and to share your love with others. Amen.



## DISCUSSION & SCRIPTURE READING

Today we're going to meet people whose job is to care for sheep. Can you guess who they are?

Listen to answers. *The shepherds.*

These people took a short journey from their workplace to see Jesus Himself. Let's read about them.

Invite someone to read *Luke 2:8-20*.

What were the shepherds doing when they heard the Good News that Jesus was born?

Listen to answers. *Working; sleeping.*

The angel told them this Good News would bring great what for all people?

Listen to answers. *Joy.*

Shepherds were not who most people would have expected God to speak to. They were often seen as the outcasts of society. What a compassionate and loving thing for God to do to choose to announce His Son's birth to those who were unloved and seemingly unimportant.

## **42 An Advent Journey**

**As Jesus would tell a Pharisee later in His life, the Good News is all about the fact that God loves everyone. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)***

**God gave the shepherds evidence that what He said was true, just like He gave Mary evidence that what He told her about Jesus was true. Mary’s Good News could be proven by a journey to visit her relative who was going to bear a child in her old age. The shepherds’ Good News could be proven with a short journey to Bethlehem.**

**When the shepherds saw that what the angels told them was true, they didn’t keep it to themselves. They loved the people in their community enough to tell them the Good News about Jesus. *“The shepherds returned (to work), glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” (Luke 2:20)***

**God proved Himself to be trustworthy, generous, and our reason for joy once again. He also showed His deep love for those He created by sharing His Good News with those who were unloved and outcasts. He gave them reason to rejoice and show love to others with the message He had given them.**

**We have reason to rejoice because of Jesus, too! We also have reason to show love to others because of the message He has given.**

**We know the Good News of the truth of Jesus. God has shown us His love for us and for the world through Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection. We have hope and joy because of Him. This is not the kind of love we keep to ourselves, but the kind that is meant to be shared with others... like the shepherds did on their journey.**



### **ACTIVITY**

Get out the printed or digital map of your town or neighborhood.

**Here is our house on this map. Where are the different places in town we go regularly?** Allow family members to brainstorm all of the places you usually go around town. *School, church, work, grocery store, etc.*

As you create your list, either, 1) Highlight those places on the paper map, or 2) Show your children how to find those places on the digital map.

**God has placed us here for this time in history, just like he placed those shepherds in that field for that time in history. He wanted those shepherds go on a journey to tell others about His Son and He wants US to go on our journey to tell others about His Son too. He has given us this community, our family, and our friends to show His love.**

**What is something we could do to show someone love at each of these places we have highlighted/seen on the map?**

Let your child use the other color of highlighter to highlight the roads from your house to the locations you highlighted as your children give suggestions as you write down their serving suggestions.

OR

Type in the name or address of each of the locations so your child can see the journey highlighted as you write down your children's serving suggestions.

**Let's take one of those suggestions and make a plan today to go on this special journey and love people with the love of Jesus!**

Make a list of supplies you'll need, mark a date on your family calendar to serve together, and then pray together for those people to feel loved by this act of service and love.

**As we celebrate Jesus' birth, we are reminded that God is trustworthy, generous, our joy, and He gives us His love to share. We can also remember that God will be with us as we go, serve, and love others.**

**Let's practice our Scripture memory verse:**

## 44 An Advent Journey

### Family Memory Verse

*Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*



### CLOSING PRAYER

**Dear Jesus, Thank You for loving us with enough love to share with others. Remind us as we journey in our regular life, around town in the everyday things we do, that you go with us so we can love others in your name. Amen.**

## **A MISSIONARY STORY**

**We have some Family Time Training friends who God called on a long journey. God called these people to be international missionaries. This is the last missionary family we will learn about for this study and we will spend the week praying for them and the ministry they are doing.**

**God has proven His love to this family.**

**We interviewed these missionaries. Here's what they told us in their own words...**

### **Meet Matthew and Pam Boardwell.**

We have been married for 30 years June 15th, 2021. We met at Bible College where both of us were getting Bible training because we wanted to go into full time ministry. I grew up in Alberta, Canada, and Matthew grew up in Michigan.

We have 9 children, Benjamin aged 29, Nathanael aged 28, Zachary aged 26, Jonnavin, aged 24, Katelynn aged 23, Jillian aged 21, Adam aged 20, Zephani aged 13 and Harmony aged 10. In the summer of 2020, Jonnavin married Janaye Walker and Katelynn married Eddie Hooke.

*What ministry has God called you to?*

We have been serving as international ministry workers in the northwest of Ireland for the past 7 years. We are here doing evangelism and church planting in the rural, small-town area of Manorhamilton.

We have been in ministry our whole married life. Matthew was the associate pastor at Mountain View Baptist Church in Lafayette, Colorado for almost 9 years. Then we planted a church in the town we were living in, Erie, Colorado, and Matthew was the pastor at that new church for 14 years.

In 2009, having been in full time ministry for 18 years, we felt the need for a sabbatical... a much needed break and rest. Part of Matthew's heritage was Irish, so we'd always wanted to make a trip to Ireland. Plus, Matthew was working on his master's degree in spiritual formation and Christian philosophy, and for credit he was researching and writing a

## 46 An Advent Journey

curriculum on the Celtic saints and Christian movement.

So we set out on our own Peregrinatio... which means a JOURNEY, leaving one's homeland and wandering on a sojourn or pilgrimage for the love of God or for personal spiritual purpose. Our peregrinatio took us for 3 weeks to Great Britain and 7 weeks to Ireland. We visited dozens of ancient Christian and pre-Christian sites and museums. We were amazed by the incredible Christian heritage from Ireland's past.

But while we were there we also visited the local churches each Sunday, and got into numerous conversations with locals about spirituality and faith. And we were saddened to find that the current spiritual state of Ireland was quite dark and oppressive. Most of the churches seemed lifeless and dead.

We returned home to our work and lives in Colorado, but both Matthew and I separately were feeling a conviction that Ireland needed more Christian workers and that maybe God wanted us to be some of those workers. A year after our trip to Ireland, Matthew and I went away on a late anniversary trip to Boston. One night we went out to an Irish pub restaurant and started reminiscing about our trip the year before. As we talked we discussed the spiritual need we had both felt there and then the fact that both of us separately had been feeling the call of God to go! This was a very exciting and very scary moment. It was amazing to hear God speaking to both of us in the same way, but it was frightening because it meant that our lives and the lives of our children were going to change drastically.

For 2 years we didn't tell our children or anyone else what God was leading us into. We simply prayed and waited for God to show us how He was going to get us to Ireland. Eventually God led us to WorldVenture, a mission agency that already had people working in church planting in Ireland. We then told our children, families, friends, and church. And we headed into the 2 ½ year process of applying to WorldVenture, getting all our training, raising all of our support money, transitioning our church to a new pastor, selling and getting rid of 2/3rds of our possessions, packing up the rest to ship, renting out our house, finding a new home for our 9 year old dog, saying thousands of good-byes, and moving to Ireland.

When you feel God calling you to a new journey, it can be frightening at first. And it may be very hard to do. We left our 3 oldest sons in America when we moved here. That was really hard. But something you should remember is that God will not ask you to do something that He will not supply the strength to accomplish. When we were in the process of those 2 ½ years of getting ready to move to Ireland it was so difficult at times, and sometimes we wanted to quit and just stay where we were. But I said to Matthew one day, "The only thing harder than doing God's will is NOT doing God's will." In other words, if you are a true believer, you will never be happy if you are in rebellion to God and not willing to do what He asks of you.

You may have heard the saying, "God will not give you more than you can handle." THIS IS NOT BIBLICAL AND IT IS NOT TRUE!! But what IS true is that God will not give you more than HE can handle through you! In 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 Paul says, "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced...We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many."

It certainly is important to have many people praying for you as you travel the journey God has for you. And then remember that we rely on God, who is powerful enough to raise the dead!

*How can we pray for your ministry?*

Many of the Irish are still Catholic, but their faith is empty and lifeless. They do not have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Many other Irish are angry at or tired of religion of any kind and want nothing to do with God or church. Where we live in Ireland there are fewer than 1% evangelical Christians. Pray that we would have opportunities to build trusting relationships with our townspeople and

## **48 An Advent Journey**

neighbors. Pray that God would draw their hearts to want to know the truth, and to believe the good news of Jesus. Pray that we would have patience and endurance to stick with this ministry for the long haul and eventually plant a living, vibrant church in our area. And on a practical note, pray that we would be granted Irish citizenship as this is the only way we will be able to stay here long-term.

If you want to follow our ministry or receive our prayer letters, You can find us on the WorldVenture website [www.worldventure.com](http://www.worldventure.com) and click on Search Workers. Then type "Matthew Boardwell" in the search box.

God bless you on your journey!

**Let's spend some time praying for this family today and we'll pray for them each day this week.**

Bonus Activity

# God Is Our Guide on Every Journey



## TEACHING GOAL

To understand that God is our guide on every journey



## SCRIPTURES

### Psalm 119:105

*Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.*



## MATERIALS

- Treasure hunt clues printed, cut out and numbered
- Prize for the end of the in-home adventure journey (i.e. a craft to make together, a recipe for a treat or meal you could make together, a movie to watch together)

## 50 An Advent Journey



### IN ADVANCE

1. Decide whether you will go on an adventure journey around town or in your home.
2. **USING THE PROVIDED CLUES:** Number the clues in order of where you want to go, starting with the first clue and ending at your journey's destination. As you read through the clues, you will be able to decide which locations are closer to each other and a good route to take your children on this journey. You can skip clues that don't make sense for your family or town or add your own clues.
3. **USING YOUR OWN CLUES:** Write clues on slips of paper that will lead your children from place to place until you reach a determined destination. This is a treasure hunt, so make sure there's a good treasure at the end of the journey!

**NOTE:** Words written in **BOLD** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.



### DISCUSSION & SCRIPTURE READING

**We've had a great time celebrating Jesus' birthday by talking about journeys. Who are the different people we learned about who God took on journeys?**

Listen to answers and briefly review all of the different journeys and what God taught your family through Advent this year.

*Mary's journey taught us about trusting God; The wisemen's journey helped us to see how generous God is; Mary and Joseph's journey taught us about finding joy in hard things; The shepherds' journey showed us that God's love is meant to be shared! The four different missionary families each had an amazing story of how God lead them on their journeys of serving Him.*

**God has taken our family on some journeys, too.**

Share the different places you have lived as individuals, as a couple, and as a family. How has God shown His trustworthiness, generosity, given you joy or opportunities to share His love in those places?

**How can we know it's God leading us to go on journeys or if it's just something we want to do?**

Listen to answers.

***Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."***

**When we spend time listening to God through His Word, asking for His direction through talking to and listening to Him through prayer, He will guide us. He will confirm things He has told us through other people, through our gifting and skill sets, and desires we have through times with Him in Scripture.**

**He may not tell us things that will happen far in the future, but He'll light up the path right in front of us so we know the very next steps to take. God is trustworthy and will generously give us everything we need as we seek Him and His leading. He is our Guide on every journey!**

**Do you think we've memorized Joshua 1:9 yet? Who wants to try to say it on their own?** Give each family member the opportunity to say the Bible verse from memory. Then recite the verse together.

***"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9***

**We are going to go on a journey together one last time this Christmas season.**



**PRAY**

**God, thank You that You are our Guide on every journey. Thank You that You will never leave us and that you will show us the way you want us to go when we keep our eyes on you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**



**ACTIVITY**

**I am going to give you clues to guide us to different places in (town/our house) and you are going to tell us how to get to those places as we go. When we begin, you'll give us right and left directions and tell us when it's time to stop and get the next clue.**

**When you are ready, I'll give you the first clue.**

Tip: Make sure to keep your clues in order, so you end up at the place you plan to!

When you get to your journey's destination, make sure to stop and thank God for the wonderful advent time together and for being your guide on every journey.

## **Adventure Around Town**

Options for your journey:

1. **USE THESE CLUES** - Make a copy of this page (you can also find a digital version at [famtime.com/AdventJourney](http://famtime.com/AdventJourney)), cut out the clues and number them in the order you want to take your children through town. You will keep all the clues and hand them the next clue when you arrive at each correct destination. You will hand your children Clue #1 at your house or even in your car and they will tell you which directions to go to get to that location. When you arrive at the 1st destination, you will give them Clue #2 and so on until you reach your final destination – some place your family LOVES. You may need to make a special clue for your family's favorite destination if it's not listed as one of the clues already.
2. **MAKE YOUR OWN CLUES** - Use the clues provided as examples and write your own clues that fit your family or your town best. Use the same format as explained above.

### **Answers:**



Library



Doctor's Office



Grocery Store



Gas Station



School



Church

## CLUES



Go to the place you find stories of all sorts,  
adventure to worlds with no need of  
passports.

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Go to the place your health comes first,  
health at its best or at its worst.

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Go to the place the market is super,  
buy things fresh, canned, or frozen for supper.

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Go to the place our car gets filled.  
It's stinky if this stuff gets spilled.

---



Go to the place you learn basic knowledge,  
Here you learn so you can go to college.

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Go to the place you worship Jesus  
and see our dear friends who love us.

## **Adventure Around Your House**

Options for your journey:

1. USE THESE CLUES OR MAKE YOUR OWN CLUES - Make a copy of this page (you can also find a digital version at [famtime.com/AdventJourney](http://famtime.com/AdventJourney)), cut out the clues and number them in the order you want to take your children through your home. OR use these clues as examples and write your own clues that fit your family or your home best.
2. HOLD ALL THE CLUES OR PLACE THE CLUES AROUND YOUR HOME - Similarly to the "Around Town Adventure," you will keep all the clues and hand them the next clue when you arrive at each correct destination. OR before your Family Time Activity, place the clues in the correct locations in your home, but keep Clue #1 with you which will lead your children to the first destination with Clue #2 and so on. The final clue will lead your children to a hidden prize.

### **Answers:**



Books/Bookshelf



Bathroom with first aid supplies



Stove/Oven



Washer and Dryer



Parent's Bed



Each child's bed

## CLUES



Go to the place you find stories of all sorts, adventure to worlds with no need of passports.

---



Go to the place your health comes first, health at its best or at its worst.

---



Go to the place the meals are created, “the meals are yummy” is understated.

---



Go to the place our clothes get clean, socks, hats, shirts, pants and in-between.

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Go to the place mom and dad get to sleep, we rest our heads while you dream deep.

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Go to the place you get good rest, where your dreaming is at its best.

# Joy to the World!



Take your family on a journey through this Advent season with Family Time! This Family Advent Guide includes an activity for each week during Advent plus a bonus activity as you end the year. Each week you will explore the journey God takes His people on – in the biblical account of the birth of Jesus Christ, with missionaries today, and in your own lives.

This activity book will help you keep the focus on Jesus this Christmas and sharing the Good News of His life with those around you. Our God came to journey among us! Enjoy His faithfulness, generosity, joy and love each and every day and especially during Advent. This is truly the best gift we can give to our families this season.



**You can keep Family Time going all year long! Visit us at [Famtime.com](http://Famtime.com) for more resources and activity ideas.**



**FAMILY TIME TRAINING** has been serving families for over 20 years. Our mission is to train and equip parents and grandparents to pass the faith to the next generation in the home. You can follow us on social media or learn more by visiting [www.famtime.com](http://www.famtime.com).