

Names of Jesus Advent Countdown



ADVENT 2020

INTRODUCTION

Starting on December 1st, read each Bible passage that indicates one of the names of Jesus. Some days have additional questions or activity prompts. After reading the Bible verse each day, consider:

- Writing that name of Jesus on an index card or sticky note and placing it in a frequented part of the house like the door of the refrigerator or a mirror. Watch the display grow throughout Advent.
- Share, individually or as a family, how you've experienced that name or title of Jesus in your life.
- Pray for courage and clarity to acknowledge Jesus as _____ more and more.

This fun and simple activity will get your family talking, encouraging each other, having fun, and sharing about Jesus every day during the Advent season!

1. *Alpha and Omega:* READ REVELATION 22:13

Snow. You might love it, you might hate it. Depending on where you live you may already have seen too much of it this year, or your children may have never seen it at all. No matter how we look at it, the picture of snow flakes are associated with Christmas time. There are even a favorite holiday song, *It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas*, *Let it Snow*, and *I'm Dreaming of A White Christmas* that embraces the fluffy white stuff as an integral part of our season. We hear a lot of talk about how every snowflake is unique.

A Russian photographer named Alexey Kljatov actually figured out a way to prove this statement through macrophotography and a lot of work. He took the time to take pictures of individual snow flakes. As a family look at what he discovered here: <http://tinyurl.com/realsnowflakes>

Take a few moments and look and think about those flakes then think about this: Not only is each flake special, each is intricate. For those of you who have had to shovel, can you imagine that in those drifts and piles are millions upon millions of intricate crystals, each different? Why would God do something like that? I think he sums it up pretty well when He calls himself by this name in Revelation 1:8 *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and*

who is to come, the Almighty.” This name means, “beginning and end.” He was the one who existed before Creation and He will exist all the way to the end of time and beyond. He is the one who in His mightiness would take the time to craft snowflakes. There is no end to the way Jesus will show himself to us.

Ask:

- What are some other ways we can see that God is the beginning and the end?
- How do these intricate snowflakes show us how God has always been?
- How does it make us feel that God has always been and always will be?
- You know what else is amazing? He knew the plan to come to earth and become a baby for our sake. He knew always He was born to die to conquer death.
- Talk as a family about the power in that reality.

2. Immanuel: READ ISAIAH 7:14 AND MATTHEW 1:23

3. Messiah: READ JOHN 4:25

4. Unspeakable Gift: READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

5. Prince of Peace: READ ISAIAH 9:6

6. The Word: READ JOHN 1:1 AND REVELATION 19:13

The other three Gospels start differently:

Mark starts with a declaration about Jesus from John the Baptist. Matthew starts with the family tree of Jesus. Luke starts with the birth of John the Baptist. You see those three start with us being reminded about why Jesus coming to earth was important. We learn His story through others. However, John tells us He is the Word.

Ask: What does that mean?

Well the original word that was used here was actually, “Logos.” To over simplify this would have meant something to both the Jewish and non-Jewish people of the day. To the Jews this was a direction to look back to the Old Testament. It was asking them to look at a long history that promised the Son of God was coming to be the Messiah to save them. To those who were not from that people group it was an introduction that God

was both human and divine. In other words just like the other Gospels it was a set up for the reader to understand Jesus has always been, He is God. He is the WORD.

John started by telling us Jesus is the WORD because he would end in John 20: 30 & 31 by saying this: *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Talk for a few moments today about what these two verses mean. What does it mean that God is the Word and that He is Christmas?

7. *Lamb of God:* READ JOHN 1:29

8. *First Born over all creation:* READ COLOSSIANS 1:15

9. *Good Shepherd:* READ JOHN 10:11

10. *Jesus:* READ MATTHEW 1:21

11. *Wonderful Counselor:* READ ISAIAH 9:6

12. *The Christ:* READ MATTHEW 16:16

13. *The Mighty God:* READ ISAIAH 9:6

Would you say being the family thumb wrestling champ makes you “mighty?” When you think of that word what comes to mind? For the last couple of days we have been looking at Isaiah 9:6.

Let’s take another glance: *For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Why do you think Mighty God is listed as a name along with Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace? It gives us a completely different picture of Jesus doesn’t it?

When you think of Mighty God what comes to mind?
How would you describe God as being mighty?

14. *Lord:* READ ROMANS 10:9

15. *Friend:* READ JOHN 15:14-15

16. *Son of Man:* READ DANIEL 7:13, MATTHEW 9:6, 12:40

17. *Ancient of Days:* READ DANIEL 7:9

18. *Servant:* READ MATTHEW 12:18

19. *King:* READ ZECHARIAH 9:9

20. *Savior:* READ JOHN 4:42

There are all sorts of Christmas carols about one event that happened in the Christmas story. A bunch of Shepherds were hanging out in a field in the middle of the night watching sheep. Now something we need to understand about shepherds is they were considered pretty lowly working class folks. It would be like some garbage men out on an early morning round. They were not respected at all. When all of a sudden some angels appear in the sky with an announcement, "You know that Savior you have been waiting for? He has been born and you should go see Him."

Now set a timer. You have 2 minutes. Write down all of the lyrics you can remember to the following songs:

- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- Joy To The World
- Angels We Have Heard On High

There are so many Christmas carols and here we have three alone dedicated to this one night. Let's take a look at what actually happened to those Shepherds in Luke 2: 8-14
Read Luke 2:8-14.

Ask:

What do you think the Shepherds thought they were being "saved" from? Do you think they knew they needed a Savior? How would you feel if you were told this Savior was a baby?

21. *Bright and Morning Star:* READ REVELATION 22:16

22. *Bread of Life:* READ JOHN 6:35

23. *Holy One:* READ MARK 1:24

24. *Son of David:* READ JEREMIAH 33:17, MATTHEW 20:30

25. *Light of the World:* READ JOHN 8:12

Christmas lights are festive and fun. They are a great representation of a name that Jesus called himself, "Light of the World."

In John 8:12 this is what He says:

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Ask your family:

- Why would Jesus call himself the Light of the World?
- What do you think it means that when we follow Jesus we will never walk in darkness?
- What does it mean to have the light of life?
- Talk about how Christmas lights can make us think about Jesus being the light of the
- world.

Consider driving around and looking at Christmas lights as a family.