

PREPARING THE WAY AT HOME

“Prepare the way of the Lord . . .” —Luke 3:4

Supplies

- Bible(s)
- sacred candle, matches or lighter



Welcoming God

Gather as a family and light a candle as a symbolic way of inviting God to join you during this time together. Sit quietly for a moment so that everyone has the opportunity to relax his or her body, mind, and spirit.

Sharing With God

Say: If there is anything weighing on our minds and making it difficult to focus, let us share it now and then let it go.

Enter a quiet time when family members can share. You might go first and set the example by sharing anything that is weighing on your own mind.



Listening for God

Say: In this second week of Advent, we are going to hear about John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin. John preached about Jesus being our Savior. He said that the people needed to prepare for his coming into the world.

Read aloud Luke 3:1-6. Take turns reading the Scripture, or have a different family member read the Scripture passage each week.



Family Share and Reflection Time

Say: John spoke in this Scripture about preparing for Christ. Advent is the four weeks before Christmas. It is the time when we prepare ourselves to celebrate that Jesus was born and that we can follow him.

Activity: Take a walk around your home and point out anything that reminds you that you are preparing for Christmas. Notice things such as your Christmas tree, if it is up, wrapping paper or presents, cards, decorations, and so forth. If you do not have any young children, you might choose simply to stay put and talk about evidences you have seen in your home and your community.

Discussion Questions:

- What things have we done as a family to prepare for Christmas?
- What things have you done personally to prepare for Christmas?
- Are there things we can do to make our spirits ready to celebrate?



Asking God

Say: Let us pray together as a family . . .

Let us share our prayers for the world—for our country and leaders, and for other countries and their leaders . . .

Let us share our prayers for the church, ministers, and other spiritual leaders . . .

Let us share our prayers for our friends, teachers, and others in our community . . .

Let us share our prayers for family members and our own specific needs . . .

Use the space provided below to make note of family prayer requests. Take a few minutes to review requests from the previous week.

Prayer Requests:

Offering Ourselves to God

Pray aloud together:

God, we have read your Holy Word,
We have prayed together,
We have spent time with you,
We have experienced your love for us,
Now, we promise to love one another and others as you
love us.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessing One Another

Invite family members to bless one another. Some examples might be:

“May God bless you, guide you, and be with you, today and always. In the name of Christ, Amen.”

“I love you, and I ask God to bless you.”

“God loves you just the way you are, and so do I!”