

# Advent-ually Family Activity

## Week One

Theme: Hope

Materials needed: Marker or markers, colored paper, and tape.

Time Needed: 15 minutes

### **Head of Household:**

Reflect on the nature of waiting. How do we wait? Sometimes we wait impatiently. Other times we wait with joyful anticipation.

### **Example:**

- 1) When you are in a big rush and the line at the bank is very long. You find yourself checking your watch and tapping your foot. This is waiting impatiently.
- 2) When you have just stepped into line to get into a movie that just came out and your very excited to watch. You might make small talk with people in line or with someone who came with you to see the movie, but your excited that the time has come for you to experience something you have waited for with eager anticipation.

We are called to entire this season of advent with this second time of eager anticipation!

### **Activity:**

- 1) Take a sheet of colored paper and write **HOPE** at the top.
- 2) **Read aloud: 2 Samuel 7:12-13 and then Isaiah 7:14**
- 3) Ask your household to describe things they are excited to experience in the future. This could be vacations, visiting with friends, going camping, birthdays, or their favorite meal. As they call out things, write them on the sheet of colored paper. Do this until the sheet is mostly full or family members run out of examples.
- 4) Tape this sheet on the wall prominently, leave room for three more sheets. Explain this is how we wait for Jesus, with excitement and joyous HOPE!

## Week Two

Theme: Love

Materials needed: Marker or markers, colored paper, and tape.

Time Needed: 15 minutes

### **Head of Household:**

**What do you love?** Cookies? Coffee? A warm sweater on a cold day?

**Who do you love?** Your family? Your favorite barista at the coffee shop? That really great boss you once had?

We use the word LOVE in many ways. This week we are reflecting on how God defines love in this season of joyous anticipation.

### **Activity:**

- 1) Take a sheet of colored paper and write **LOVE** at the top.
- 2) **Read aloud: John 3:16 and then 1 John 4:8-10**
- 3) Have the family call out all the people that they love and write down the names on the colored paper. Lead everyone in praying for all those people (see example if you do not know what to pray).
- 4) Tape this sheet next to the HOPE sheet from last week. Explain that God has defined love by sending Jesus!

## Week Three

Theme: Joy

Materials needed: Marker or markers, colored paper, and tape.

Time Needed: 15 minutes

### **Head of Household:**

Where does joy come from? Couldn't we all use some more joy in our lives?

The dictionary defines joy as:

The emotion of great delight or **happiness** caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; keen pleasure; elation

Let's explore how we can have more joy today while we wait for what will happen ADVENT-UALLY on Christmas!

### **Activity:**

- 1) Take a sheet of colored paper and write **JOY** at the top.
- 2) **Read aloud: Luke 2:10 and 1 Peter 1:8-9**
- 3) Have the family call out moments they felt joy and write down those events on the colored paper. Did they win the big game, was it the time they first rode a bike without training wheels, or did they finish a great book?
- 4) Tape this sheet next to the LOVE sheet from last week. Explain that God has given us something/someone that brings us never ending joy, Jesus!

## Week Four

Theme: Peace

Materials needed: Marker or markers, colored paper, and tape.

Time Needed: 15 minutes

### **Head of Household:**

If there is one thing most of us can agree on, its that this world needs more peace. People are quick to become angry and slow to forgive. Everyone seems to be on edge.

We have been called to be a people set apart, to be counterculture. While the world rages, we have a peace that surpasses all understanding. In this advent season we acknowledge our peace comes from Jesus.

### **Activity:**

- 1) Take a sheet of colored paper and write **PEACE** at the top.
- 2) **Read aloud: Isaiah 9:6**
- 3) Have the family call out places or times when they felt peace. Was it when they read books with grandpa? Was it going on a hike in the woods? Or maybe they felt peace sitting around the campfire?
- 4) Tape this sheet next to the JOY sheet from last week. Explain that Jesus has given us a peace that is even greater than these times of peace because His peace never ends!