
FAITH @ HOME

WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

Some ideas for exploring joy during the third week of Advent

You might like to read Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 with a joyful tone in a few translations this week.

Parents with littles – if you just need one or two ideas, the don't-miss ideas for young children are in green. Many of these are scalable for older and younger audiences by adjusting the language.

Black font is an all-play for children, teens, and adults.

The word Advent means coming. Each week of Advent, we light a candle as we look forward to celebrating Jesus's coming. The third week, we light the candle of joy (it's the pink one!) and remember the shepherds who told the joyful news of Jesus' birth.

Read

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 - talk about where joy comes from
- Psalm 126 — talk about how verses 1-3 might fit with our response to what God did for us at Christmas and what he does for us today
- Revelation 21:3-7 – talk about any connections between what is foretold about Jesus' coming in Isaiah and Revelation

Reflect

- ? A mission statement is a simple message to tell the world who you are and what you are about." What is the mission statement of some businesses or organizations you know? What is the mission statement of West Hills Church? <https://www.whcomaha.org/mission-statement/>
- ? Do you think this passage from Isaiah might be Jesus' mission statement? If you were explaining Jesus' mission to someone based on this passage, what would you say?
- ? Individually or as a family, think about ways you prepare your heart for this season.
 - What do you look forward to?
 - In what ways are you more generous in Advent and Christmas?
 - What would it be like to prepare your heart in the way every day?
- ? *Write down a few words or sentences that describe how you would like to prepare for every day. Include something about how you would like to treat others, how you would like to see the world, and what you can do to make it better every day.*
- *Consider writing this on special paper, dating it and putting it on your Christmas tree – your own mission statement to go along with Jesus' incarnational mission.*

-Above ideas adapted from *Faith Formation Journeys*

Do

- Draw a picture of the wrong or sad or disappointing things you wish God would fix (or use the one you during the first week in advent). On another piece of paper, draw a picture of what it would look like for God to fix those things. Glue or tape the solution picture over the problem picture. How does it feel to know that Jesus is coming back again to right all the wrong things?
- Read or watch *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. What did the Grinch discover about Christmas joy? Is there anything you would like to add to what the Grinch learned?
- Play the Isaiah 61 Scavenger Hunt game. This can be done cooperatively as a family, or can be done using Zoom for different teams to play against each other competitively. If you do it competitively, each playing site will need one unbiased facilitator to hide the clues.
<https://teachingthem.com/2012/02/14/isaiah-61-scavenger-hunt-game/>
- Check out this group's way of spreading Christmas joy, and think about how you can use YOUR special gifts to spread joy, too: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xl2c9yptr4U>

Worship

- Go Tell It On the Mountain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsX3tYbai1Q>
- Joy to the World <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Xo64Q2ucQ8>
- Light the Light the Fire of Life