

# WEEK 1

# ADVENT

## GOD'S PEOPLE HOPE FOR A KING

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

### THE FOUR KEYS

## KEY VERSE

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope. Psalm 130:5

## KEY IDEAS

1. There is hope in God's promises because He always keeps them
2. There is hope in Jesus, our gift from God
3. There is hope in following Jesus, our King

## KEY PASSAGE

Matthew 1:1-17

## KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God always had a plan to save the world from sin through Jesus.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

awe and wonder that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who came to save the world from sin and give us new life in Him.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

talk about how Jesus is the King we need.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to seek Jesus as the greatest gift of all this Christmas.

# INTRODUCTION

Advent is a special season to celebrate the first coming of Jesus Christ our Lord and to remember that He has promised He will return again. Advent means “arrival” or “coming”. During this season, we are reminded that the first coming of Jesus was all about saving the world from sin. He left His throne in Heaven to willingly come to the earth as a man (God in human form), offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice to bring salvation and hope to the nations. Advent also reminds us that He has promised He will return for His church and make all things right once and for all.

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by asking, “What is a genealogy?” On the chalkboard, build a generic family tree diagram using just the titles “parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.” Then, add to the tree “siblings, aunts & uncles”. Explain that a genealogy is simply a family tree showing all of your family members/ancestors.

## STORY

Read Matthew 1:1-17.

This is Jesus’s family tree, or genealogy. It can be difficult to just read a list of names, but there is a reason for everything God puts in His Word.

Why do you think God put that list in the Bible?  
Do you think there might be a significance to the list?  
What do you think it’s there for?

God put the family tree of Jesus in the Bible so that all who read it will know that He keeps His promises. You see, long ago, God promised Adam & Eve that He would send a Messiah (Savior) to rescue and redeem what was broken by sin. God later promised Abraham that the whole world would be blessed through his family. God’s plan was that through Abraham’s descendants, Jesus would come to save the world! By tracing the family tree all the way through the Bible, we have a historical record that proves God keeps His Word! Jesus is everything God promised that He would be and more.

## ACTIVITY

Use the Family of Christ advent puzzle in the teacher’s closet. sit with the kids in a circle on the floor or use the whiteboard and magnets to build the tree one person at a time. With each card, spend time talking about who that person was and why his or her story is significant.

## PRAYER

Thank God that He always had a plan to rescue the world from sin. Thank Him that because of Jesus, we have hope.

## SONG

O Come O Come, Emmanuel

Happy Birthday, Jesus by Jesus 4 Life (kids will learn and perform on the Sunday before Christmas)

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

2 Corinthians 1:20, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, Matthew 16:16

## ACTIVITY

Using the family tree provided in your take home packet, build a family tree with your child of all your family Members that you know of. Explain how God purposefully planned the family tree of Christ so that the Messiah would come from a family who loved and followed God (Abraham's family). Talk about the members of the family tree of Christ and how each one played a part in bringing the Messiah (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rahab, Boaz, Ruth, David).

## DISCUSSION

- What does the genealogy of Jesus teach us about God?  
Because all people were separated from God by sin, God promised to send a Savior who would forgive their sins and bring them back into relationship with God. Jesus is the Savior God promised. God keeps His promises.
- What is significant about the family tree of Jesus?  
God sent His very own son Jesus to be the Savior of the world. Jesus came willingly into the world, and He is fully God and fully man. God did this all through a family, Abraham's family, but God promised that through Abraham's family the whole world would be blessed. In every generation of this family, God promised, "He's coming! He's on His way!" And now because Jesus came to the world, we can all be part of God's family because Jesus paid the penalty for all of our sins. For those who believe and trust in Him, we are given the inheritance of God's family, forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER

Thank God that He always keeps His promises and that we can have hope in Him. Thank God that He gives good gifts. Ask God to help you understand more about how Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

