



— **Week 1** —

The Promise of a Savior



Week 1

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP TIME

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about God's promise to rescue His children from sin. The only materials needed are five candles, matches, and a Bible.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Have one member of the family light the first candle.

SCRIPTURE READING

Have one person read the following passages out loud.

Before they left the garden, God whispered a promise to Adam and Eve: "It will not always be so! I will come to rescue you! And when I do, I'm going to do battle against the snake. I'll get rid of the sin and the dark and the sadness you let in here. I'm coming back for you!" And he would. One day, God himself would come. **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE**

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* **ISAIAH 9:6**



REFLECTION

Briefly talk about what it means to be rescued from something. When might you need to be saved from danger? Whom would you call upon to rescue you? For example, if there were a fire, whom would you call to save you? What are rescuers typically like?

Have an adult read the commentary below.

In the very beginning, God created a perfect world. There was no sin, pain, sickness, death, or sadness. God created Adam and Eve to live in His perfect world with joy and peace. But Adam and Eve sinned. They disobeyed God. When they sinned, God's perfect world broke.

There was a punishment for Adam and Eve's sin. Because God is perfect, He cannot be near sin. So Adam and Eve were separated from God. The punishment for their sin would also be placed on all humans who were born after Adam and Eve.

Ask: Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, each of us needs to be rescued from something. What do we need rescue from?

But before Adam and Eve left God's perfect Garden, God made a promise. God promised to send a Rescuer, someone to save Adam, Eve, and mankind from the punishment of sin. He promised to send Jesus!

God did not send Jesus to rescue His people right away. God waited thousands of years to send the Rescuer. During that time, God's people faced many hard things. While they waited, God gave them hints and clues about how Jesus would come, what He would do, and what He would be like. These hints, written in Scriptures by prophets, would help God's people wait. The verse from Isaiah that we read together after lighting the Advent candle was written while God's people waited those thousands of years for the Savior.

During that time, God made other promises to His children and kept those promises. Each time God made and kept a promise, it helped His children trust that He would be faithful to His promise to send Jesus to rescue them from their sins.

Ask: What do you think it felt like for God's people to wait for the promised Rescuer to come?

Some days, God's children waited patiently. Some days, they waited with tears and frustration. Some days, they wondered if God had forgotten His promise. But God continued to whisper it over and over again as His children waited. And one day, when no one was expecting it, Jesus would come.



God shows us many things about what's He's like through the birth of Jesus. How do you see that God is the Deliverer, that He rescues His children, in this part of the Advent story? What other attributes of God do you see?

PRAYER

Have one family member say a prayer to thank God for His goodness and mercy in sending Jesus to rescue us from our sins.

SONG

As a family, sing or listen to "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus." As you do, read carefully through the lyrics and explain any words that might be unfamiliar to your kids. Ask them what they learn about Jesus from this song.

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Parents, make plans for a fun Christmas activity next week that you know your children will love. Perhaps it's watching a Christmas movie, decorating cookies together, or seeing Christmas lights.

At the end of your family Advent time, promise your kids that you are going to do something special together to celebrate Advent—something they will love—but don't tell them what or when. As the days go by, remind them of your promise and give them hints as to what it might be. Let their expectation and excitement grow throughout the week. Use this opportunity to remind them of God's promise to send a Rescuer and the anticipation God's people felt as they waited.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

(Examples can be found on The Village's Pinterest board.)

Create an Advent wreath to use throughout the Advent season.

Create a nativity scene to use throughout the Advent season. If you would like to make this activity last the entire season, consider creating just the stable and animals this week.