

Celebrating Advent at home

Advent Countdown Chain

Children love counting down the days to a special event. This activity invites children to count down the days to Christmas, with a time of prayer as a family and a weekly invitation to share what we have with others.

What better way to prepare for Christmas, than getting the children leading the family into a prayer moment as we count down together to the feast of Christmas?

Step 1

Cut out links for your paper chain, one for each day between now and Christmas Day [27 links if you begin on the first Sunday of Advent – Nov 29th].

On one side of each link, write the intention of your prayer e.g. 'God bless our family today', 'pray for my friend Mary', 'for my teacher', 'for all those who are sick', 'for our extended family', 'for our family away from home', 'Thank you Lord for our friends' 'pray for all who have no homes', 'for those who are hungry', etc.



Step 2



Glue or staple a strip together to form a circle. Then make a second circle with a second strip of paper, but before stapling it together loop it through the first circle so the two are connected together.

Continue to add a new circle to the last circle you created, until you have a chain for each day from now until Christmas Day.

Step 3

Attach one end of your chain to an image of the Advent Wreath and the other end to a picture of the Crib.

....or you could place the chain around your Advent wreath at home.....

Hang your chain up where you will remember to remove one link each day during Advent.



Each Day

Pick a special time each day – a time that you will always remember. Families often prefer perhaps just before bedtime.

Remove the paper loop on the end of the chain and pray for the intention mentioned e.g. family, friends, neighbours, those who are homeless....

Let your child lead the prayer. Perhaps they might need a prompt as to what they would like to say to Jesus. You might like to say a familiar prayer or a prayer they know from school.

[Prayer for Advent further down the page.]

Each Week

Remember those who are finding life difficult....invite your child to offer prayer for the people who are struggling... remember those who are lonely, hungry, homeless etc. Think of an action you can do to make life better for someone else e.g. making a hamper to give to a charity, visit or phone a neighbour who lives alone etc.

