

Thank you for using “A Family Advent” to equip families to celebrate the season at home. Below are all the materials and instructions to prepare the booklet and kit for families to pick up from church on the Sunday before Advent or on Advent One.

Enjoy!

Advent Family Kits

Materials

- medium size gift bag for each kit
- printable “A Family Advent” booklet

Directions

- Print copies of “A Family Advent” booklet.
- Ready gift bags to collect all the kit materials as detailed in the following instructions.

Advent 1: Hope Candle Holders

Materials

- salt dough recipe
 - 1 cup of salt
 - 1/2 cup of flour
 - 1/3 cup of water
- votive candles
- 2 Tablespoons purple glitter
- 2 teaspoons pink glitter
- sandwich size resealable bags
- measuring cups and spoons
- permanent marker
- white votive candles

Preparation

- Measure the dry ingredients for salt dough and pour into individual sandwich size resealable bags.

- Measure the glitter and pour into separate sandwich size resealable bags.
- Use a permanent marker or label each ingredient bag.

Kit Assembly, add:

- 1 bag of flour
- 1 bag of salt
- 1 bag of purple glitter
- 1 bag of pink glitter
- four votive candles

Directions

- In a mixing bowl, combine the flour and salt with 1/3 cup of water and mix well.
- Divide the salt dough into four equal parts.
- Open the resealable bag with pink glitter and add one quarter of the dough; close the bag tightly, removing the air, and then knead the dough with your hands to mix in the glitter. (Or, you can go wild and just mix the glitter into the dough using your bare hands!)
- Repeat the process by adding the remaining dough to the resealable bag with purple glitter.
- Remove the glitter dough.
- Divide the purple dough into thirds, so once again you have four equal parts.
- Roll each quarter of dough into a ball.
- Use one of the votive candles to firmly press down the center of the ball to ensure a good fit.
- Encourage creativity to shape the candle holders around the impression.
- If the dough becomes too flaky, lightly wet your hands to continue working.
- Place completed candle holders on a nonstick cookie sheet; do not use nonstick spray.
- Bake at 200-degrees for 3 hours or until completely firm; about halfway, it is helpful to turn the candle holders upside down.
- Allow candle holders to cool.

Advent 2: Peace Towels

Materials

- printable towel message cards
- white card stock (or Avery® 5689)
- curling ribbon
- scissors
- hole punch
- Christmas towels (optional kit inclusion)

Preparation

- Print the towel message cards four to a page onto white card stock.
- Cut the cards apart.
- Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top left corner of the card.
- Thread a 6-inch piece of curling ribbon through the hole and tie off leaving the ends of the ribbon loose.

Kit Assembly, add

- two cards with ribbon attached
- two Christmas towels or two rolls of paper towels (optional kit inclusion)

Directions

- If not included in the kit, buy two Christmas towels or two rolls of paper towels.
- Attach the peace towel message card by tying the ribbon around the towel.
- Give the towel to one of the people your family thought may need a little extra encouragement this year.

Advent 3: Joy Blessing Ornaments

Materials

- printable blessing ornament poem
- white card stock (or Avery® 5689)
- clear glass or plastic ornaments

- curling ribbon
- scissors
- hole punch
- strips of red and/or green construction paper
- permanent marker
- paper clips

Preparation

- Print the blessing cards four to a page onto white card stock.
- Cut the cards apart.
- Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top left corner of the card.
- Thread a 3-inch piece of curling ribbon through the hole and through the metal top of a glass ornament.
- TIP: To ensure glass ornaments are not broken in transit, cut the plastic carton into sections to preserve the individual cups.
- Return the glass ornament back to a plastic cup.
- Use scissors to cut 1-inch strips from red and/or green construction paper.
- Use a paper clip to neatly hold the strips of paper together.

Kit Assembly, add

- glass ornament with tag
- 12 strips of red and/or green construction paper

Directions

- Write one joyful memory on each red and/or green strip of paper.
- Remove the metal ornament top.
- Roll up the strips of paper and drop them into the ornament; you can use a pencil to help create a tight roll to fit through the top.
- Replace the metal ornament top
- Use a permanent marker to write the year 2015 on the outside of the ornament
- Add a hanger to put the ornament on the Christmas Tree.

Advent 4: Love Cards

Materials

- construction paper in various colors
- Christmas stickers
- crayons, markers, etc. (optional kit inclusion)
- paper clips

Preparation

- Use a paper clip to collect an assortment of Christmas stickers.
- Fold sheets of 9x12 construction paper in half, short edge to short edge.
- Use a paper clip to collect several sheets of folded construction paper together.

Kit Assembly, add

- clipped together folded construction paper
- clipped together assorted Christmas stickers
- crayons, markers, etc. (optional kit inclusion)

Directions

- Use the folded pieces of construction paper and decorative materials to make Christmas cards.
- Encourage each other to include Scripture verses on the cards.
- Hand deliver or leave the cards for those your family identified to share love with this Christmas.