



Home *for Christmas*

Parent-Led Family Devotional

Dear Parents, We hope that you will find this **weekly Advent devotional** helpful as you shepherd your family toward Jesus this season! This devotional is geared toward school-age children and follows the **TEAMS** approach. It includes a weekly theme that matches the teaching in Perimeter's Sunday morning Advent sermon series. Use this devotional during family devotions, mealtimes or even long car rides! Our prayer is that your family would draw closer to Jesus this Advent season.

WEEK 1

November 29

THEME

Christ, the Tender Physician

The answer to the world's ills and ours is not human strength or worldly wisdom; instead, it is in the arms of God's chosen Servant, the tender physician who brings justice to the nations but in a way that looks like weakness. He comes quietly and with a character so gentle He does not break a bruised reed or quench a smoking wick, but faithfully fulfills God's redemptive purpose.

The Lord's Chosen Servant

- ¹ Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
 I have put my Spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged
 till he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his law.
- ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people on it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶ **"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
 I will take you by the hand and keep you;
 I will give you as a covenant for the people,
 a light for the nations,**
- ⁷ **to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.**
- ⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to carved idols.
- ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth
 I tell you of them."

Equipping

Discussion Questions

- Is there anything you don't understand about this passage?
- Who is the servant in verse 1 referring to? (Jesus)
- How does this scripture describe Jesus? (servant, chosen, gentle, strong, righteous)
- Who is speaking in the text? (God is speaking! Verses 5, 6, and 8)
- In what way does Jesus fulfill 42:1-9? (Jesus fulfills this prophecy in Matthew 12:15-21 and all throughout the gospels.)

Accountability

- How does it encourage you today to know that, in Jesus, you are God's servant, chosen, and friend?
- Have you been treating others like they are made in God's image?
- Have you been trying to earn God's love with what you say or do? How does this passage encourage us to come to Jesus instead?

Mission

- How can we serve our friends in light of Jesus serving us?
- What is the BEST way we can love our friends? (Share the love of Christ and share what Christ has done!)

Supplication

Use the ACTS acronym for prayer today!

- **Adoration:** How can we praise God for the "light of the nations" He has sent?
- **Confession:** The passage talks about Jesus opening the eyes of the blind. Ask God to show you if there are any sins that you are blind to.
- **Thanksgiving:** Considering what Jesus has done for you, what do you want to thank Him for?
- **Supplication:** Ask God to help you see more how Jesus is like a tender healer.

WEEK 2

December 6

THEME

Christ, the Light to the Nations

For Israel to be restored to God's purpose, they need God's appointed Servant. But this Servant is more than the mere restorer of Israel. For One so great to simply restore Israel would be a task too small. He's the light of the nations, shedding His rays as far as the curse is found, through His suffering bringing salvation to Jew and Gentile alike.

Truth

READ ISAIAH 49:1-6

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The Lord called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the Lord,
and my recompense with my God."
- ⁵ **And now the Lord says,**
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
- ⁶ **he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant**
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Equipping

Discussion Questions

- Who is the “I” in the passage? (Jesus)
- What mission does God give to the servant? (Redeem Israel and be a light to all nations)
- What does Jesus mean when He says His salvation will reach to the end of the earth (verse 6)? (Christ will be the savior for all kinds of people!)
- Did Jesus just minister to the Jews in His time on earth? (No, He healed and spent time with Gentiles too.)
- Can you think of places where we see Jesus fulfill this passage? (See Luke 4:16-20, John 4:21-24, Matthew 8:28-34)

Accountability

- Verse 2 says Jesus’ mouth is like a sharp sword. Do you spend time reading the words of Jesus in the bible? Why is it important for you to do so?
- Verse 5 says that Jesus was “honored in the eyes of the Lord” and that God was His strength. Do you honor Jesus with your heart and actions? How can you more make God your strength?

Mission

- If Jesus is a light for the nations and He calls us to go and make disciples, what do you think is a very important part of being a follower of Christ? (To share the gospel with others and be representative “lights of Christ” for everyone!)
- Who is someone you can serve this week? Who is someone you can pray for to come to know Jesus?

Supplication

- “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3
- In light of this verse, pray as a family with humility and trust that the Lord hears your prayers and answers them in His way! We can trust that the Lord will answer us because of what He has already done in bringing us back to God and becoming our salvation and a bright light to the whole world!

WEEK 3

December 13

THEME

Christ, the Sustainer of the Weary

Though we stumble under the weight of God's just condemnation for sin, God's anointed Servant sustains the weary with the word of His vindication, willingly bearing the blow for sinners, though He is innocent himself. Who will declare us guilty if we are in Him?

Truth

READ ISAIAH 50:4-7

⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

⁷ But the Lord God helps me;
Therefore, I have not been disgraced;
Therefore, I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Equipping

Discussion Questions

- Who is speaking in the passage? (Jesus)
- Who helps Jesus (verse 7)? (God helps him.)
- What do we learn about Jesus's character? (He relied heavily on God. He was not rebellious. He was dedicated to saving sinners, etc...)
- Do these verses remind you of any passages in the gospels? (Mark 15, Matthew 26:36-46)

Accountability

- In verse 4 we read that Jesus spent time with his Father, morning by morning. How has your time with God been recently? Do you value it like Jesus did?
- In verse 5, Jesus does what God asks of Him and does not rebel or resist. What has been your attitude toward God's Word and his commandments?
- In verse 6, Jesus does not fight back but lets the suffering happen. What has been your heart attitude toward those in your life who are difficult to love?
- In verse 7, Jesus shows us that we can fully rely on God. Have you been fully trusting God in this season of life?

Mission

"For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me" Luke 22:41

- Jesus fulfilled the prophecy in His life, death, and resurrection!
- Does this encourage you to share with others?
- Is there a friend or family member who needs to hear this good news?

Supplication

- Pray through Isaiah 54:4-7
- "Lord You give us wisdom morning by morning. You help us know your heart through the Bible. You speak to us and we listen to Your words. Give us hearts that will not rebel or turn away. Because the Lord is our only help, we will not be put to shame. Therefore, Lord help us be determined to do Your will. We know if we trust in You, we will not be disappointed, for Your plan is perfect. We love You Lord and thank You for our many blessings! Amen"

WEEK 4

December 20

THEME

Christ, the Savior of Sinners

Though God's Servant looks like a "no one" to human eyes, He is the Savior of sinners. In His substitutionary atonement, we see the ugliness of humanity's sin but also the beauty of divine mercy. For it was God's will to crush the innocent lamb in the place of guilty sinners and through Him to make many righteous. In His death and resurrection, we find life that is eternal.

52

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

53

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ **Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.**

⁵ **But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.**

⁶ **All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.**

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

- ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
- ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
- ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
- ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Equipping

Discussion questions:

- Are there any big words you don't understand? Go through and define them!
- Look at verses 4-6. Can you describe what's going on in your own words?
- Who is God's servant? (Jesus)
- Why did God's servant have to suffer? (God's servant, Jesus, suffered and made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins so we could be forgiven.)
- What are some things that stick out about Jesus in this passage? (He was not particularly handsome or attractive. He was perfect but he took on the sin of many. People turned away from and disregarded him.)
- If you wish to discuss and look up the New Testament verses showing the different ways Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's message, these are some possible verses: Matthew 27:12-14, 29-31, 57-60.

Accountability

- What does verse 6 mean to us as sinners? Do you think you're a good person? Or do you believe you are a sinner?
- God saves His people through the sacrifice of His Son. How does your heart respond? Is it responding the way God would want it to?

Mission

- How can we take these truths about Jesus and share them with others?
- Is there anyone (friends or family members) that you can share the gospel with this week in word or deed?

Supplication

- Do you have any prayer requests?
- Dear God, thank You for sending Your son in our place. We could not have saved ourselves and with Your great love, You provided Your son! God help us to share this great news with others. May this news grow our love and worship towards You! We love You Lord! Amen.



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