



St. Andrew's Family Ministries Advent Devotions

Week One: A Savior Is Promised

This devotion (and those to follow it) are designed to be done as a family, no matter what that means for you! The content will be related to the readings and themes that will be found throughout all our church curriculum during this Advent season. Feel free to toy with the order, format, or whatever else; we at St. Andrew's just hope that these small pauses will bring you and your family closer to our Savior this season!

Opening Prayer:

Make it up! Thank God for the time you're about to spend with Him in fellowship with your family, thank Him for His promise of a Savior, or bring anything else to Him you think He needs to hear.

Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

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. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Second Reading: John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Explain It:

The first passage that we read was written by a prophet named Isaiah almost 700 years before Jesus was born. Isaiah was living during a time where God's chosen people, the Israelites, were being oppressed by some pretty mean people. A lot of the Israelites were starting to doubt God and His power because they couldn't see that God was protecting them. So, God used Isaiah to remind the Israelites that He would send them a Savior, and that this Savior would uphold God's kingdom forever. The second passage that we read is important because it was written after Jesus was born. It explains that God became a man and lived on Earth with humans just like us, which is what Isaiah promised to the Israelites all those years before Jesus' birth. Jesus was the Savior that God and Isaiah promised, and that promise was fulfilled.

Talk About It:

1. The first reading talks about a child being born. Who is this child and why is this important?
 - a. Jesus is the child that is talked about, this is important because Jesus is the Savior that is being promised.
2. Isaiah was a prophet. What does that mean?
 - a. It means that Isaiah was a messenger sent by God. Basically, God would tell Isaiah to say things, so anything that Isaiah said to the Israelites was God's own voice speaking to them.
3. The second passage says that the "Word became flesh." Who is the "Word?" What does that mean?
 - a. Jesus is the "Word" and he "became flesh" when he was born on Christmas. Jesus is spoken of in the passage from Isaiah—which is why refer to Him as the Word, and that Word became flesh on Earth when Jesus was born.
4. Was Jesus supposed to only be a Savior for the Israelites?
 - a. No, Jesus is also a Savior for you and me, which is why the promise that we talked about today is so important, and it is why we celebrate Christmas.

Closing:

You can continue discussing the questions or just pray everyone out! Maybe invite someone else to do it. Thank God for the Promise of Jesus and ask Him to grant you patience as we wait for Christmas.