

Greetings,

AT RICHWOODS CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WE LOVE CREATING SPACE FOR FAMILIES TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY AND MEANING OF CHRISTMAS TOGETHER. ADVENT IS A SPECIAL SEASON THAT HELPS US GET OUR HEARTS READY FOR CHRISTMAS. IT'S THE FOUR WEEKS LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS DAY — A TIME TO SLOW DOWN, LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE, AND REMEMBER THE GREATEST GIFT THE WORLD HAS EVER RECEIVED: JESUS.

EACH WEEK OF ADVENT FOCUSES ON A DIFFERENT THEME — HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY — REMINDING US OF WHAT JESUS BRINGS TO OUR LIVES AND OUR WORLD. AS YOU OPEN AND EXPLORE THIS KIT, WE HOPE IT HELPS YOUR FAMILY PAUSE, TALK, LAUGH, AND WONDER TOGETHER ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS THAT GOD IS WITH US.

MORE THAN A COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS, ADVENT EMBRACES THE WAY OF JESUS AND ENCOURAGES HOPEFUL WAITING, COURAGEOUS PEACE-MAKING, RESILIENT JOY, AND SELF-GIVING LOVE IN OUR STILL-SUFFERING WORLD. NO MATTER HOW YOU USE IT, THE GOAL IS SIMPLE: MAKE SPACE FOR JESUS IN YOUR HOME AND HEARTS THROUGHOUT THIS BUSY CHRISTMAS SEASON.

WE ARE EXCITED TO JOIN TOGETHER FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES!

A Prayer For You

DEAR GOD,

THANK YOU FOR THIS SEASON OF ADVENT.

AS WE OPEN OUR KITS AND GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS,
FILL OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY.
HELP OUR FAMILY REMEMBER THAT YOU SENT JESUS TO BE

WITH US —

THE BEST GIFT OF ALL.

Amen.

How To Engage

1. SET ASIDE TIME AND CREATE A SPACE — WHENEVER AND WHATEVER FITS YOUR FAMILY BEST, STOP AND TAKE TIME TO ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH EACH DAILY CARD. FIND A SPACE IN YOUR HOUSE TO SHOWCASE YOUR CARDS AS YOU GO, USING THE TWINE AND CLIPS PROVIDED!

2. OPEN ENVELOPES DAILY STARTING WITH #1 — EACH ENVELOPE INCLUDES A CARD THAT HAS AN IMAGE, A VERSE REFERENCE, AND A PROMPT ON THE BACK (EITHER AN INVITATION, DISCUSSION, REFLECTION, OR PRAYER). THIS WILL GO ALONG WITH THE THEME OF THE WEEK!

3. INVITATION CARDS — THINK ABOUT WHO YOU WILL BE INVITING EACH NIGHT TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES! WRITE YOUR NAME (OR FAMILY NAME) ON THE CARD BEFORE YOU HAND IT OUT SO THEY CAN BRING IT BACK WITH THEM!

4. KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING ALL WEEK — LOOK FOR WAYS TO LIVE OUT THAT WEEK'S THEME THROUGH KINDNESS, GRATITUDE, AND LOVE.

WEEK 1: HOPE OF HEAVEN

WE BEGIN ADVENT WITH HOPE — TRUSTING THAT EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE DARK, GOD'S LIGHT IS COMING. OUR TRUE HOPE IS FOUND IN JESUS, WHO CAME TO BRING HEAVEN'S PROMISE TO EARTH AND REMIND US THAT HE IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW.

WEEK 2: PEACE IS A PERSON

PEACE ISN'T JUST A FEELING — IT'S A PERSON. JESUS CAME TO CALM OUR HEARTS, BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, AND SHOW US THAT TRUE PEACE IS FOUND IN KNOWING HIM. WE CAN SHARE HIS PEACE BY SHOWING KINDNESS AND FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS.

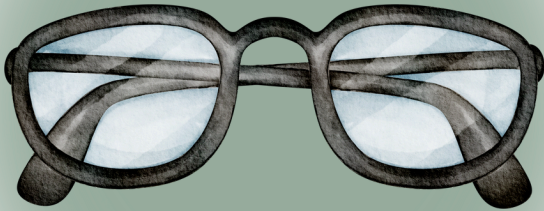
WEEK 3: LOVE WITHOUT LIMIT

LOVE IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT! GOD LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE SENT HIS SON, JESUS, TO SHOW US WHAT REAL, UNLIMITED LOVE LOOKS LIKE. HIS LOVE HAS NO BOUNDARIES, AND WE CAN SHARE THAT SAME LOVE WITH EVERYONE WE MEET.

WEEK 4: JOY TO THE WORLD

JOY IS MORE THAN BEING HAPPY — IT'S THE DEEP GLADNESS THAT COMES FROM KNOWING GOD LOVES US AND THAT JESUS CAME FOR ALL PEOPLE. THE ANGELS TOLD THE SHEPHERDS, "I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!" THIS JOY IS FOR THE WHOLE WORLD!

Day 1



2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

SO WE DON'T LOOK AT THE TROUBLES WE CAN
SEE NOW; RATHER, WE FIX OUR GAZE ON
THINGS THAT CANNOT BE SEEN. FOR THE
THINGS WE SEE NOW WILL SOON BE GONE,
BUT THE THINGS WE CANNOT SEE WILL LAST
FOREVER.

-2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

REFLECTION:

-WHERE HAVE YOU "SEEN" GOD IN YOUR LIFE
THIS WEEK?

-HOW CAN YOU HELP OTHERS "SEE" GOD
WORKING AND MOVING IN THEM?

-SHARE WITH SOMEONE TODAY HOW GOD HAS
GIFTED YOU TO BE THE PERSON YOU ARE.

Day 2



PSALM 16:9

THEREFORE MY HEART IS GLAD AND MY
TONGUE REJOICES; MY BODY WILL ALSO REST
SECURE.

-PSALM 16:9

INVITATION:

FIND TIME TODAY TO JUST REST SECURE IN
GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU. TURN OFF YOUR PHONE,
TURN OFF THE TV, AND ALLOW GOD TO LOVE
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TODAY.

Day 3



ROMANS 15:13

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL
JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO
THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

-ROMANS 15:13

INVITATION:

SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH SOMEONE OUT OF
YOUR "OVERFLOW". GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH
AND YOU HAVE THE HOPE OF JESUS IN YOU. AS
YOU ENCOUNTER PEOPLE TODAY, DON'T MISS
AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THAT SAME HOPE
WITH SOMEONE ELSE. MAYBE EVEN HAND
OUT YOUR INVITE CARDS!

Day 4

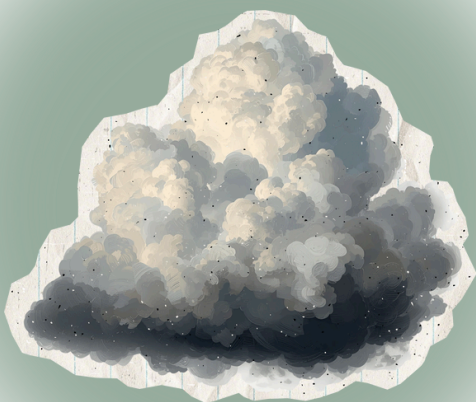


ISAIAH 40:31

BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD
WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH.
THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES;
THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY,
THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.
-ISAIAH 40:31

INVITATION:
PRESS INTO YOUR SABBATH THIS WEEK. STOP,
REST, DELIGHT, AND WORSHIP AS A FAMILY.
JOY STACK THE THINGS THAT BRING YOU LIFE.
RENEW YOUR STRENGTH AND REDISCOVER
YOUR FAITH.

Day 5



REVELATION 21:4

‘HE WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES.

THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH’ OR
MOURNING OR CRYING OR PAIN, FOR THE OLD
ORDER OF THINGS HAS PASSED AWAY.

-REVELATION 21:4

REFLECTION:

-WHERE ARE YOU FEELING “HEAVY” TODAY?

-HOW CAN SOMEONE ELSE AROUND YOU HELP
LIFT YOU UP?

-THINK ABOUT THE PROMISE OF ETERNITY.
WHERE CAN YOU FIND COMFORT IN JESUS
TODAY?

Day 6



LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23

YET THIS I CALL TO MIND
AND THEREFORE I HAVE HOPE: BECAUSE OF
THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE WE ARE NOT
CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER
FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING;
GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

-LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23

INVITATION:

WAKE UP EARLY TOMORROW BEFORE THE SUN
COMES UP. START YOUR DAY WITH JESUS AND
LIVE INTO THIS VERSE FROM LAMENTATIONS.

THIS MORNING, GOD IS FAITHFUL. HIS
COMPASSION NEVER FAILS AND HIS MERCIES
ARE NEW EVERY MORNING.

Day 7



DEUTERONOMY 31:6

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID OR TERRIFIED BECAUSE OF THEM, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD GOES WITH YOU; HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.

-DEUTERONOMY 31:6

INVITATION:

DO SOMETHING HARD TODAY. FIND CONFIDENCE IN THE HOPE AND PROMISES OF GOD TO NEVER LEAVE YOU. PUSH THROUGH AND PERSEVERE BECAUSE THE LORD WILL SEE YOU THROUGH THE CHALLENGES. WHEN YOU'RE DONE, PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS. BE PROUD OF YOURSELF FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

Day 8



PHILIPPIANS 4:9

WHATEVER YOU HAVE LEARNED OR RECEIVED
OR HEARD FROM ME, OR SEEN IN ME - PUT IT
INTO PRACTICE. AND THE GOD OF PEACE WILL
BE WITH YOU.

-PHILIPPIANS 4:9

INVITATION:

RECEIVE GOD'S PEACE TODAY AS YOU PUT IT
INTO PRACTICE. CLEAN UP TRASH TO BRING
ORDER AND CLEANLINESS TO SOMETHING. BE
BRAVE AND INITIATE A CONVERSATION OF
FORGIVENESS THAT NEEDS TO BE HAD.

Day 9



HEBREWS 12:14

MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH
EVERYONE AND TO BE HOLY; WITHOUT
HOLINESS NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD.

-HEBREWS 12:14

PRAYER:

PRAY THAT YOUR INTERACTIONS TODAY WILL
HELP OTHERS SEE THE LORD. PRAY AGAINST
ANY HARDNESS IN YOUR HEART TODAY THAT
WOULD PREVENT YOU FROM LIVING IN PEACE
WITH THOSE AROUND YOU.

Day 10



PSALM 34:14

TURN FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD;
SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

-PSALM 34:14

REFLECTION:

USE TODAY AS A DAY OF REPENTANCE. WHAT
“EVIL” MIGHT BE PRESENT IN YOUR LIFE THAT
IS KEEPING YOU FROM FULLY EXPERIENCING
GOD IN THIS ADVENT SEASON? LAY THAT
DOWN AT THE FEET OF JESUS AND PURSUE THE
PEACE THAT HE PROMISES YOU.

Day 11



MARK 5:34

HE SAID TO HER, "DAUGHTER, YOUR FAITH
HAS HEALED YOU. GO IN PEACE AND BE FREED
FROM YOUR SUFFERING."

-MARK 5:34

REFLECTION:

HIS WORDS - "GO IN PEACE" - ARE MORE
THAN JUST A FAREWELL. THEY SIGNAL A NEW
BEGINNING. THE PEACE JESUS GIVES
INCLUDES COMPLETE RESTORATION - NOT
MERELY PHYSICAL HEALING BUT WHOLENESS
IN BODY, SOUL, AND COMMUNITY. PEACE IN
THIS SENSE IS KNOWING WE ARE DEEPLY
LOVED, WELCOMED, AND MADE WHOLE BY
GOD.

Day 12



1 CORINTHIANS 14:33

FOR GOD IS NOT A GOD OF DISORDER BUT OF
PEACE - AS IN ALL THE CONGREGATIONS OF
THE LORD'S PEOPLE.

-1 CORINTHIANS 14:33

DISCUSSION:

- WHERE IS THERE DISORDER IN YOUR LIFE?
- HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED PEACE?
- HOW CAN YOU TAKE WHAT IS DISORDERED,
GIVE IT OVER TO JESUS, AND FIND PEACE
TODAY?

Day 13



PSALM 85:8

I WILL LISTEN TO WHAT GOD THE LORD SAYS;
HE PROMISES PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE, HIS
FAITHFUL SERVANTS - BUT LET THEM NOT
TURN TO FOLLY.

-PSALM 85:8

INVITATION:

NOTICE THE PEACE AROUND YOU TODAY. AS
FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF JESUS, WE ARE
PROMISED PEACE. SIT IN THAT PEACE TODAY.
ENJOY THE WORLD AROUND YOU AND KNOW
THAT YOU ARE DEEPLY LOVED BY GOD.

Day 14



JOHN 16:33

I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS, SO THAT IN
ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE. IN THIS WORLD
YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT TAKE HEART! I
HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.

-JOHN 16:33

INVITATION:

JESUS NEVER PROMISES US AN EASY LIFE. IN
FACT, HE TELLS US THAT WE WILL HAVE
STRUGGLES, BUT IN HIM WE CAN FIND PEACE.
SHARE THAT PEACE WITH SOMEONE TODAY.
INVITE THEM TO JOIN YOU THIS ADVENT
SEASON AS WE DISCOVER THE PERSON OF
JESUS DEEPER.

Day 15



1 JOHN 3:1

SEE HOW MUCH OUR FATHER LOVES US, FOR
HE CALLS US HIS CHILDREN, AND THAT IS
WHAT WE ARE!

-1 JOHN 3:1

INVITATION:

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD TO SOMEONE WHO
WOULD NOT EXPECT IT.

Day 16



PSALM 143:8

LET ME HEAR OF YOUR UNFAILING LOVE EACH
MORNING, FOR I AM TRUSTING YOU. SHOW ME
WHERE TO WALK, FOR I GIVE MYSELF TO YOU.

-PSALM 143:8

INVITATION:

START A CHRISTMAS THEMED PUZZLE AND
INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO HELP YOU
COMPLETE IT ANY TIME YOU'RE TOGETHER.

Day 17



PSALM 5:11

BUT LET ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE IN YOU
REJOICE; LET THEM SING JOYFUL PRAISES
FOREVER. SPREAD YOUR PROTECTION OVER
THEM, THAT ALL WHO LOVE YOUR NAME MAY
BE FILLED WITH JOY

-PSALM 5:11

INVITATION:

HAVE EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY FILL A
BAG WITH ITEMS TO DONATE TO A LOCAL
CHARITY.

Day 18



JEREMIAH 31:3

THE LORD APPEARED TO US IN THE PAST,
SAYING: "I HAVE LOVED YOU WITH AN
EVERLASTING LOVE; I HAVE DRAWN YOU WITH
UNFAILING KINDNESS."
-JEREMIAH 31:3

INVITATION:
TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO SIT IN PRAYER
THANKING JESUS FOR HIS EVERLASTING LOVE
AND PRAY YOU GET THE OPPORTUNITY
TO SHARE HIS LOVE WITH THOSE AROUND
YOU.

Day 19



JOHN 13:34

A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE
ANOTHER. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU
MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

-JOHN 13:34

REFLECTION:

JESUS TELLS US TO LOVE OTHERS THE WAY HE
LOVES US. WHAT DOES THAT KIND OF LOVE
LOOK LIKE IN OUR DAILY LIVES? WHO MIGHT
NEED THAT KIND OF LOVE FROM YOU THIS
WEEK?

Day 20



1 JOHN 3:18

DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH
WORDS OR SPEECH BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN
TRUTH.

-1 JOHN 3:18

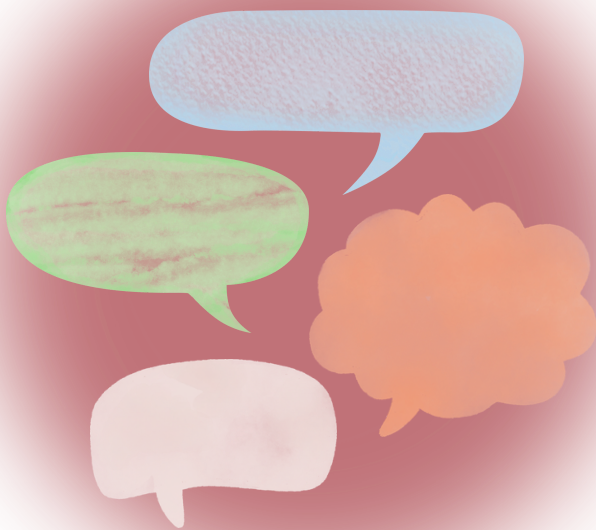
CHOOSE A SIMPLE ACT OF LOVE TO DO TODAY:

-WRITE AN ENCOURAGING NOTE/SEND
ENCOURAGING TEXT

-HELP A PARENT, SIBLING, OR CO WORKER
WITHOUT BEING ASKED

-TAKE A SMALL GIFT (FAVORITE DRINK,
CANDY, FLOWERS) TO SOMEONE YOU CARE
ABOUT

Day 21



1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND. IT DOES NOT
ENVY, IT DOES NOT BOAST, IT IS NOT PROUD.

-1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

INVITATION:

TALK AS A FAMILY OR REFLECT PERSONALLY;
WHEN IS IT HARDEST FOR YOU TO BE PATIENT
OR KIND? HOW CAN LOVE HELP US CHOOSE
PATIENCE, ESPECIALLY IN BUSY OR STRESSFUL
MOMENTS? WHEN THE HOLIDAY SEASON
FEELS HARD?

Day 22



MATTHEW 2:9-11

AFTER THIS INTERVIEW THE WISE MEN WENT THEIR WAY. AND THE STAR THEY HAD SEEN IN THE EAST GUIDED THEM TO BETHLEHEM. IT WENT AHEAD OF THEM AND STOPPED OVER THE PLACE WHERE THE CHILD WAS. WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY! THEY ENTERED THE HOUSE AND SAW THE CHILD WITH HIS MOTHER, MARY, AND THEY BOWED DOWN AND WORSHIPED HIM. THEN THEY OPENED THEIR TREASURE CHESTS AND GAVE HIM GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

-MATTHEW 2:9-11

REFLECTION:

AS YOU SEEK JESUS, WHAT OFFERINGS DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR TREASURE CHEST? THINK TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, AND THANKSGIVING. ARE YOU PRESENTING THEM TO GOD WITH A JOYFUL HEART OR BEGRUDGINGLY? HOW CAN YOU GROW IN YOUR GENEROSITY?

Day 23



LUKE 2:9-11

SUDDENLY, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED
AMONG THEM, AND THE RADIANCE OF THE LORD'S
GLORY SURROUNDED THEM. THEY WERE TERRIFIED,
BUT THE ANGEL REASSURED THEM. "DON'T BE
AFRAID!" HE SAID. "I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS THAT
WILL BRING GREAT JOY TO ALL PEOPLE. THE SAVIOR
—YES, THE MESSIAH, THE LORD—HAS BEEN BORN
TODAY IN BETHLEHEM, THE CITY OF DAVID!

-LUKE 2:9-11

INVITATION:

MAKE A CHRISTMAS THEMED JOY LIST OF 10 ITEMS
AND PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THEM. REMEMBER THE
SIMPLE JOYS: ENJOYING A CUP OF COCOA,
APPRECIATING THE BEAUTY OF THE SNOW, OR
WATCHING A CHRISTMAS MOVIE.

Day 24



LUKE 2:1-20

INVITATION:

READ THE FULL CHRISTMAS STORY, LUKE 2:1-20, TO
PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE TRUE REASON WE
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.