

ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE
JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG
FOR THE KING**BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING**

Romans 8:19; Philippians 1:23; 3:8-14; Psalm 119:20; 42:1-2; 63:1; Isaiah 26:9; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Revelation 19:16; 22:20

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

"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."

BIG IDEAS

- We long because we are in darkness.
- We long for the King who is our deliverer.
- We long for the King who is both wisdom and might.
- We long for the King who is both eternal and peace.

BIBLE STORY: ISAIAH 9:1-7

God promised a coming King to rescue His people. In Isaiah, we see a vision of this coming King who will rescue His people and make things right. Jesus followers look forward to the return of this King who will bring with Him new life forever.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!

**Every child should know that:**

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.

**Every child should feel:**

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.

**Every child should strive to:**

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.

**Every child should want to:**

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

**JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG
FOR THE KING****A WISE KING**

Define the word “wise” for your child. Next, create a list of behaviors and ask your child if each behavior is wise or unwise. You can list things like running across the street without looking both ways first, petting a strange dog, playing outside in a lightning storm, etc. After you talk about each of these things, talk with your child about how Jesus is a wise King because wisdom is from Him. He is the better King because He holds all wisdom.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Isaiah 9:1-7.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Long before Jesus was born in a manger, sin entered God’s perfect, very good world and broke it. The world and people have lived in darkness and in their hearts long for the true light. Isaiah foretells the coming of the Deliverer when he describes the coming Messiah. He describes the Son who would deliver His people from the darkness of sin and come as the great Rescuer. This baby would be God Himself coming to live among His people. He brought joy to the world because sin would no longer reign supreme in the hearts of men. King Jesus did come and He conquered sin, death, and hell, setting the captives free. He brought peace to the world because His death removed the separation between man and God. Through Jesus’ birth, life, and death, He made a way for men to be saved from their sin. God’s people longed for the coming Messiah and His people long for His return today. We long for the true King who is the better King. King Jesus rules in wisdom and might. He is the perfect King who is sovereign over all things. This means He has all power and control. Today, we long for His return when He will deliver us all from the oppression of sin in the world and He will usher in eternity.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Why did people long for the coming Messiah? (They were oppressed and wanted deliverance from their oppression. They desired to be rescued.)
- Why do God’s people long for His return today? (We long for His return because sin rules in the world and we long for Him to rule and reign for all of eternity.)

**KNOW**

As a family, memorize Isaiah 9:6 by writing sections of the verse on construction paper and then use yarn or string to create a garland from it. Hang the garland up somewhere you can see it and then say the verse each day together.

**DO**

Let your child help you plan and prepare a special meal to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Allow your child to be a part of choosing the foods you will serve and during the meal take turns naming some of the ways Jesus’ birth brings you awe and wonder.

**FEEL**

Spend time as a family naming some of the things you long for, such as family night, rest, etc. Next, talk about some of the reasons you long for the return of King Jesus. Help your child think of some reasons he or she might long for the return of King Jesus.

**WANT**

As a family spend time listening to songs that talk about the awe and wonder of Jesus’ birth and that help us think about His return.