

# Advent Devotional

**Purpose:** Children can be far more excited about a friend's birthday *party* than they about their friend's birthday. Parents know this. This is why at some point during the party they ensure that the event is truly about their birthday boy or girl. They call all the kids to the table with the cake. They light the candles and focus on that child. That's similar to the purpose of an Advent devotional. This season can easily be about Jesus' birthday *party* instead of Jesus. And an advent devotional can be one of a number of ways for us to stop in this midst of this busy season and reflect on Jesus' birth. Consider using this with friends, small groups, neighbors, and/or family to refocus your hearts on Jesus this December.

**Instructions:** For the next four weeks we will give you a one-page advent guide on Sunday morning. Each week will focus on one of four themes we will be studying as a church: *Adoption, Grace, Providence, and Adoration*. Pick just one day out of the week and set aside 15 minutes for the devotional. Consider buying four candles that represent each of these four themes. Light one each week to begin your devotional and the following discussion guide.



## Week 1 | Adoption | December 3 - 9

### Light the Advent Candle

Have a person light the first of four candles.

### Scripture Reading

Have one person read the following passage out loud.

“<sup>4</sup>But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup>God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. <sup>6</sup>And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup>Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.” - Galatians 4:4-7

### Reflection

Verse 4 says that Jesus is God's Son. | **Discuss:** What are the awesome things children get because of the relationship to their parents? How is this like Jesus relationship with the Father?

Verse 5 says that we were slaves and instead of God's children. | **Discuss:** What images come to mind when you hear the word slavery? How is a slave different than a child?

Verse 4-5 says that we were slaves because we kept disobeying God's law. But God sent His Son to obey the law for us and to die for our sins so that he might free us and adopt us as his children. | **Discuss:** What is adoption? What are some of awesome things we get because of our adoption into God's family?

### Pray

Have a family member say a prayer to thank God for making us his kids because of Jesus.