

Promises Fulfilled

ADVENT AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Advent: Week 1

Set aside approximately 10 minutes one night this week to talk about God's promise of rescue through His Son, Jesus Christ. The only materials you will need are 5 candles, a lighter, and a Bible.

Advent Candle

Have one member of the family light the first advent candle.

Scripture Reading

Have one person read the following passages out loud.

*Before they left the garden, God whispered a promise to Adam and Eve: "It will not always be so! I will come and rescue you! and when I do, I'm going to do battle against the snake. I'll get rid of the sin and the dark and the sadness **you** [Emphasis added] let in here. I'm coming back for you!" And He would. One day, God Himself would come. **THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE***

14 *The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.*

15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* **GENESIS 3:14-15**

*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. **ISAIAH 9:6***

Reflection

Briefly discuss what it means to be rescued from something. [For example, if there were a fire, who would you call to save you?]

- When is a time that you might need to be rescued from danger?
- Who would you call to come and rescue you?
- What are rescuers typically like?

Have an adult read the commentary below.

Genesis 1 tells us that in the beginning, God created. And everything that He created was good. There was no sin, no pain, no sickness, no death and no sadness. God created Adam and Eve to live in His creation and enjoy everything He had created with joy and with peace. But, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They listened to the temptations of the serpent when he asked, "Did God really say...". In his temptations, the serpent them to question the Word of God and the authority of God.

When they disobeyed God, they sinned against God and God punished them. They were separated from God. The punishment for Adam and Eve's sin would also be placed on all humans who were born after Adam and Eve.

Quick Question: Because we are descendants of Adam & Eve, well, we have inherited their sin and their punishment. So, all of us needs to be rescued from something.

- **What do we need to be rescued from?**

But, before Adam and Eve left the garden, God punished the serpent and gave a promise. God promised to send a Rescuer - someone to save Adam, Eve and all of their descendants [this includes all of us] from the punishment of sin. **Do you know who our Rescuer is? [Jesus!]**

God did not send Jesus to rescue His people right away. Some days, God's people waited patiently - kind of like we're waiting patiently for Christmas. Some days, they waited with tears and frustration - kind of like we do sometimes when we don't get what we want. Some days, they wondered if God had forgotten His promise. But, He was always with them. He never left or abandoned His people [**Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9; Hebrews 13:5**].

Scripture reminds us constantly that God continued to remind His people over and over again, that His Rescuer was coming. And then one day, when no one was looking or watching, guess what happened? Jesus came!

God shows us many things about what He is like through the birth of Jesus.

How do you see that God as a Rescuer - that He rescues His people, in this part of the Advent story?

Prayer

Have one family member say a prayer of thanksgiving to thank God for His goodness, His mercy, and that He remembered His promise of sending Jesus to rescue us from our sins.

Family Activity

Parents, make plans for a fun Christmas activity this week that you know your family will love. Maybe it's watching a Christmas movie, decorating cookies together, or seeing Christmas lights.

At the end of your Advent time, promise your family that you are going to do something special together to celebrate Advent - something they will love - but don't tell them what or when. As the days go by, remind them of your promise and give them hints as to what it might be. Let their expectation build and excitement grow throughout the week. Use this opportunity to remind them of the anticipation God's people felt as they waited for God's Rescuer.