



**GOD IS
CLOSER**
THAN YOU THINK
ADVENT MESSAGE SERIES

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

This devotion booklet is meant to help you as your family begins preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The goal is for you as a family to open your Bible and get into the Word. We hope this resource along with videos will help you as a family grow closer to Jesus and each other. The videos for the week will be posted online each Monday morning following the worship services on Sunday. The Sunday services kick off the week's theme. The goal is to have devotions Monday through Friday as a family, with Saturday and Sunday set up for worship the next week. We pray this resource will be a blessing for you and your family.

In Christ,

Steve Wilson

Director of Child & Family Ministry

Helpful hints for families with young kids:

- Watch the videos as a family, and ask a few questions to make sure your kids understand the story. You can ask simple questions such as: What was the person's story about? How does it show God at work in that person's life?
- Read the Bible text for the day. You can ask your child to read one of the verses. Most of the readings will be short and manageable for the kids to read.
- If you miss a day or a week, don't feel like you have to go back and start again. Start with the day you are on. The goal is not to give you more guilt, but to help your family get in the practice of being in the Word together.

Suggested format for doing family devotions:

- Ask about Highs and Lows for the day
- Video
- Booklet Bible verse reading
- Answer the questions
- Pray

God is Closer Than You Think: The Promise

This week we will be looking at the God keeping His promise. You will hear stories of people who knew God kept His promise. As you dive into the texts for this week, remember how awesome it is that God made promises long ago but also keeps them today. May this time in God's Word bless your family.

Videos online at www.stjohnrochester.org

Monday, November 30

Read: Luke 1:26b-28

What does the story of promise in today's video mean to you?

What does it mean to be highly favored?

How are you highly favored by God? How has God kept His promise to you as a family?

Tuesday, December 1

Read: Luke 1:29-33

What does the story of promise in today's video mean to you?

Why was Mary afraid and what was the response of the Angel to Mary?

What promise does the Angel tell us about Jesus? How does that give you hope?

Wednesday, December 2

Read: Luke 1:34-38

What does the story of promise in today's video mean to you?

How did Mary know God would keep His promise?

How do we know that no Word of God will ever fail?

Thursday, December 3

Read: Isaiah 7:10-11

What does the story of promise in today's video mean to you?

Have you ever asked God for a sign?

How do you know God has answered your prayer?

Friday, December 4

Read: Isaiah 7:12-14

What does the story of promise in today's video mean to you?

Why does God want us to ask for what we need?

What things can you as a family ask God for in prayer?

God is Closer Than You Think: The Preparation

This week we will be looking at how God prepares us for the coming of His Son. As you dive into the texts for this week, remember how awesome it is that He prepared us for His Son Jesus. May this time in God's Word bless your family.

Videos online at www.stjohnrochester.org

Monday, December 7

Read: Luke 3:1-11

What does the story of preparation in today's video mean to you?

What did John prepare the people for?

How can we repent as a family?

Tuesday, December 8

Read: Luke 3:12-14

What does the story of preparation in today's video mean to you?

What actions can we as a family do to show our repentance?

Wednesday, December 9

Read: Luke 3:15-18

What does the story of preparation in today's video mean to you?

What did John tell the people about Jesus?

How does the Holy Spirit help us follow Jesus and prepare for His coming again?

Thursday, December 10

Read: Isaiah 40:1-2

What does the story of preparation in today's video mean to you?

How does the promise of forgiveness help us follow Jesus?

How can we share with others Jesus' forgiveness for them?

Friday, December 11

Read: Isaiah 40:3-4

What does the story of preparation in today's video mean to you?

How can we make the gospel of Jesus easier for people to hear?

God is Closer Than You Think: The Proclamation

This week we will be looking at God's proclamation to His people. You will be hearing stories of proclamation in the lives of God's people. May you experience the proclamation through His Word this week as a family.

Videos online at www.stjohnrochester.org

Monday, December 14

Read: Matthew 1:18-19

What does the story of proclamation in today's video mean to you?

How does Joseph show mercy to Mary?

How can we show mercy to those around us as a family?

Tuesday, December 15

Read: Matthew 1:20-21

What does the story of proclamation in today's video mean to you?

What shocking news was given to Joseph?

How can God's grace be shocking?

Wednesday, December 16

Read: Matthew 1:22-25

What does the story of proclamation in today's video mean to you?

How does God fulfill His promise to the people of Israel?

How can we be obedient to Jesus when it is hard to do so?

Thursday, December 17

Read: Isaiah 40:6-7

What does the story of preparation in today's video mean to you?

How have we been unfaithful to God's Word?

How can we be faithful to Jesus?

Friday, December 18

Read: Isaiah 40:8-9

What does the story of proclamation in today's video mean to you?

How are you sharing the story of Jesus in your community?

How are you sharing the story of Jesus' forgiveness in your family?

God is Closer Than You Think: The Presence

This week we will be looking at experiencing God's presence in our lives. You will be hearing stories of God's presence in people's lives. We pray this week you experience God's presence through His Word and through fellowship together as a family.

Videos online at www.stjohnrochester.org

Monday, December 21

Read: John 1:1-5

What does the story of presence in today's video mean to you?

Do you have something in your life that is causing darkness to overshadow the light of Jesus?

How does Jesus being God help us know we are forgiven?

Tuesday, December 22

Read: John 1:6-13

What does the story of presence in today's video mean to you?

How do we become the children of God?

How does Jesus' light help us be in God's presence?

Wednesday, December 23

Read: John 1:14-18

What does the story of presence in today's video mean to you?

What does Jesus coming in human flesh mean to you? What hope does it give you?

How do we know God's grace and truth?

Thursday, December 24

Read: Isaiah 64:1-2

What does the story of presence in today's video mean to you?

What joy can we have in knowing Jesus is with us?

How can we be a part of sharing Jesus' name with the world?

Friday, December 25

Read: Isaiah 64:3-5a

What does the story of presence in today's video mean to you?

What amazing things have you seen God do that you didn't expect?

What amazing thing has happened for you to see Jesus at work in your life?



Worship Celebration Schedule

Traditional Praise: Sundays @ 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM

Modern Praise: Saturdays @ 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 11:00 AM

Midweek Advent Services @ 9:00 AM | 7:00 PM