



**Dinner
Devotions
for
Advent
2020**



2020 has been a difficult year for almost everyone. On top of the regular challenges of life, 2020 has added the challenges associated with a global pandemic, which are numerous, complex, and new for all of us.

Advent is a time to remember that, despite the brokenness that surrounds us, Christ has come, and Christ is coming. Perhaps now more than any other time in recent history, it's important for us to hit pause and sit in the promises of God's redemption. Despite everything happening in the world, God is our rescuer, and our Good News.

In order to help you set apart this time for reflection during this already complex season, these devotions can be done in as little as a few minutes, or as long as you'd like. You can discuss them with your household over the dinner table, or use them for personal reflection.

Each week has:

- ✦ A memory verse with a printable page to put on your dinner table, hang on your fridge, or place in some other visible location for the week - *Memory verse printables are found on pages 10-13*
- ✦ Reflection/discussion questions for Monday-Friday
- ✦ A short prayer to repeat throughout the week

The hope is that you can build these into your daily routine during Advent, even if you only have a few minutes a day.

Blessings to you as you wait for the coming of our Lord this season.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Kelly

Rev. Kelly Ladd Bishop

WEEK 1

MEMORY VERSE: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. -John 1:14 (NIV)

Print the memory verse and display it somewhere you will see it throughout the week. Printables are found on pages 10-13

MONDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) "The Word became flesh", God became a human in the person of Jesus. God speaks all of creation into being using his words. And the prophets throughout Scripture speak the words of God to the people, announcing both judgment and redemption.

★ *Where else do we see God's word in Scripture? Why do you think Jesus was called the Word? How do you feel about the God of the universe becoming human like you?*

Pray: Dear God, thank you for coming to dwell with us. Amen.

TUESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Do you ever think of God as being far away, or heaven as being somewhere distant above the clouds? The Bible talks a lot about God coming to dwell with his people. God plans to redeem the whole earth.

★ *Why do you think God came to live on earth in the person of Jesus? Where will God's ultimate dwelling be? Does this change the way you think about heaven and earth?*

Pray: Dear God, thank you for coming to dwell with us. Amen.

WEDNESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Matthew, Mark, and Luke all refer to the “transfiguration” in their gospels. (Mt 17, Mk 9, Lk 9). The three disciples who were present with Jesus on the mountain were Peter, James, and John. In John’s gospel, he may be referring to this event in his opening statement, “We have seen his glory”. John is focused on Jesus being the Word of God, full of the glory of God, AND human flesh and blood.

★ *Why do you think John is focused on describing Jesus as both God and human in the opening verses of his gospel? Why is it important to our lives that Jesus is both of these things?*

Pray: Dear God, thank you for coming to dwell with us. Amen.

THURSDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Jesus came from the Father. He was different from any other child ever born, and he came full of grace and truth. Grace is sometimes defined as the “unmerited or unearned favor of God”. Another way of saying this is, God’s kindness to us even when we don’t deserve it, or haven’t earned it.

★ *In what ways has God shown us grace through Jesus? In what ways does God show you grace every day?*

Pray: Dear God, Thank you for coming to dwell with us. Amen.

FRIDAY:

Practice saying this week’s memory verse out loud. Repeat it several times. If others are with you, take turns saying it out loud. If you are alone, say it out loud so you can hear your own voice.

★ *Which words jump out to you? What have you learned about God from this verse? What have you learned about yourself?*

Pray: Dear God, thank you for coming to dwell with us. Amen.

WEEK 2:

MEMORY VERSE: Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. -1 Corinthians 8:6 (NIV)

Print the memory verse and display it somewhere you will see it throughout the week. Printables are found on pages 10-13

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MONDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) In both the Old Testament and New Testament, the surrounding cultures believed in many gods, but the Bible is clear that there is only one God, and that is Yahweh, the God of the Israelites. Our God is the only God, the God of everything.

** What does it mean that all things come from God? Is there anything that's not included in that? What, in your life, comes from God that you haven't thanked him for?*

Pray: Dear God, help me to live for you. Amen.

* * *

TUESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) This verse tells us that Jesus Christ is the same as God, and that through Jesus all things came into being. Think about the creation story in Genesis.

** How did all things come into being through Jesus? Where was Jesus at creation? Remember that you were also created through Jesus.*

Pray: Dear God, help me to live for you. Amen.

WEDNESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) There is one God for whom we live. Scripture tells us not to live for the approval of other people, but only for God's approval.

✧ *In what areas of your life do you live for the approval of others? How can you focus on God in those areas instead?*

Pray: Dear God, help me to live for you. Amen.

THURSDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) The Bible tells us that we were dead in sin, but we are alive in Christ. Faith in Jesus changes us, renews us, and gives us new life.

✧ *What does it mean to be alive in Christ? How does your life show that you are alive in Christ?*

Pray: Dear God, help me to live for you. Amen.

FRIDAY:

Practice saying this week's memory verse out loud. Repeat it several times. If others are with you, take turns saying it out loud. If you are alone, say it out loud so you can hear your own voice.

✧ *Which words jump out to you? What have you learned about God from this verse? What have you learned about yourself?*

Pray: Dear God, help me to live for you. Amen.

WEEK 3:

MEMORY VERSE: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. -Psalm 130:5 (NIV)

Print the memory verse and display it somewhere you will see it throughout the week. Printables are found on pages 10-13

MONDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Waiting is a theme that runs throughout Scripture, but most of us don't like to wait, and do what we can to avoid waiting.

★ Some things are harder to wait for than others. What do you find it hard to wait for? Do you ever feel like you are waiting for the Lord? When?

Pray: Dear God, fill me with hope as I wait for you. Amen.

TUESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Scripture often tells us to wait. Waiting can feel like doing nothing, but it is an action, something we can do intentionally. While waiting we can be mindful, prayerful, and we can actively prepare.

★ What are you waiting for in your life right now? How are you actively waiting? In what ways can you invite Jesus into your waiting?

Pray: Dear God, fill me with hope as I wait for you. Amen.

WEDNESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) We can wait intentionally with our whole beings, including our bodies. Healthy habits and routines not only help us to be good stewards of the bodies God has given us, but they can be part of the process of waiting.

★ Pause and take a deep breath. How is your body? Are you ill? Are you treating it well? Are you tired? What new habits or routines might you try during Advent as you wait for the coming of the Lord? It might be as simple as adding a glass of water to your day, or stopping to take three deep breaths three times a day.

Pray: Dear God, fill me with hope as I wait for you. Amen.

THURSDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) The Bible tells us that all Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for equipping us to do God's work.

★ Is Scripture a regular part of your life? How can it become a part of your routines if it is not already? Review the memory verses from weeks 1 and 2.

Pray: Dear God, fill me with hope as I wait for you. Amen.

FRIDAY:

Practice saying this week's memory verse out loud. Repeat it several times. If others are with you, take turns saying it out loud. If you are alone, say it out loud so you can hear your own voice.

★ Which words jump out to you? What have you learned about God from this verse? What have you learned about yourself?

Pray: Dear God, fill me with hope as I wait for you. Amen.

WEEK 4:

MEMORY VERSE: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

-Revelation 1:8 (NIV)

Print the memory verse and display it where you will see it throughout the week. Printables are found on pages 10-13

MONDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. All things were created through Jesus in the beginning, and all things will be completed through Jesus in the end. Jesus is before and beyond time, but he entered into time when he was born in Bethlehem. He came into our time and space as one of us, to heal us and draw us back to God.

★ Think about the God of the universe entering into our time and space, coming into the world in the same way each of us did. What did Jesus give up? What did he sacrifice? Why?

Pray: Dear God, I praise you because you are holy. Amen.

TUESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Advent is a sign of what is to come. It points to the new beginning, to all things being made new. The old ways will pass away, and everything will be new.

★ What needs to be made new in your life? What habits, ways of thinking, or circumstances need to be given to God?

Pray: Dear God, I praise you because you are holy. Amen.

WEDNESDAY:

(Read the memory verse out loud) God is the almighty! And we are not. It can be hard to grasp the wonder of our God! That's okay. God knows our limits, and is not threatened by our questions or doubts.

✧ *What questions do you have for God?*

Pray: Dear God, I praise you because you are holy. Amen.

THURSDAY- CHRISTMAS EVE:

(Read the memory verse out loud) Tomorrow the waiting is over. We have remembered that Jesus has come, and we are no longer waiting for the forgiveness of our sins, and relationship with God the Almighty.

✧ *Thank God that he has come to be with us! Ask him to wash you clean and make you new! What are you thankful for in your life?*

Pray: Dear God, I praise you because you are holy. Amen.

FRIDAY - CHRISTMAS:

Can you recite all four memory verses? If not, read them all out loud.

✧ *What new things have you learned about God this Advent season?
What new things have you learned about yourself?*

Pray: Dear God, I praise you because you are holy. Amen.

The *Word* became *flesh* and made
his dwelling **among us**. We
have seen his **GLORY**, the
GLORY of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of
grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NIV)

Yet for us there is but **ONE GOD**,
the Father, from whom **all things**
came and *for whom we live*; and
there is but **ONE LORD**, Jesus
Christ, through whom **all things**
came and *through whom we live*.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (NIV)

I *wait* for the Lord, my whole
being *waits*, and in his **word**
I put my **hope**.

Psalm 130:5 (NIV)

“I am the **Alpha** and the **Omega**,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who *is to come*, the

ALMIGHTY.”

Revelation 1:8 (NIV)