

A vibrant, abstract cosmic scene with swirling orange, red, and yellow nebulae against a dark starry background. The word 'CHRISTMAS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters, with 'Cosmic' in a smaller, white, cursive script above it. The text is centered horizontally and slightly above the vertical center. 

*Cosmic*  
CHRISTMAS

ADVENT GUIDE

# CHRISTMAS

*Cosmic*



**CHILLIWACK  
AGASSIZ  
PROMONTORY  
LAKE ERROCK  
HARRISON**

## **Office**

Mon - Thurs | 9.00am - 3.30pm

**P:** 604 792 8037

**F:** 604 792 4145

**E:** [office@centralcommunity.ca](mailto:office@centralcommunity.ca)

46100 Chilliwack Central Road  
Chilliwack, BC, V2P 1J6

**[centralcommunity.ca](http://centralcommunity.ca)**



**Central Community Church App**



# *Table of Contents*

3	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
4	<b>USING THE ADVENT GUIDE</b>
5	<b>CHRISTMAS OUTREACH</b>
9	<b>FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT</b> SERMON GUIDE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL
15	<b>SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT</b> SERMON GUIDE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL
21	<b>THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT</b> SERMON GUIDE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL
27	<b>FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT</b> SERMON GUIDE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL
33	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>

# *Introduction*

## ADVENT GUIDE

This is not your average nativity story. There is no mention of shepherds or wise men, no manger, or little town of Bethlehem. There is, however, a woman giving birth but she's surrounded by stars and a heavenly war, angels, and a dragon. This is Christmas according to the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 12 tells us the Christmas Story in a way that you may have never heard before. But it is one of the ways the Bible tells the story of the incarnation of Jesus nonetheless. The Apostle John gives us a glimpse into what transpired in the heavenly realm when Jesus was born.

This is *Cosmic* CHRISTMAS

We love the cattle lowing and the wise mens' finest gifts as much as the next person but this Christmas we are looking at the same glorious story of "*Emmanuel, God with us*" but from an apocalyptic vantage point.

*"This is not the nativity story we grew up with,  
but is it the nativity story all the same"*

- EUGENE PETERSON

The coming of Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Saviour to overcome the two things we can't: sin and death; to deliver us safe and secure to God. War ensued in the heavens. The dragon sought to devour the baby. But Jesus was born and salvation has come.

May viewing the Christmas story from a unique biblical vantage point this advent season reinvigorate the wonder of it all, as we spend time gazing into the heavenlies of Revelation's cosmic Christmas.

# Using the Advent Guide

## HOW TO

We have created the *Advent Guide* as an easy to use resource to help you anticipate the coming of Christ this Christmas.

The guide consists of a **weekly study guide** and **space for sermon notes** along with a companion **weekly family devotional**.

At the bottom of the weekly study guide you will find some verses listed as **supplemental reading**. These additional Scripture passages correspond in some way with the sermon text and can be read devotionally throughout the week.

The family devotional has been created with young children in mind and includes readings from children's bibles, songs, links to videos, and discussion questions. Parents, the devotionals *may or may not* be tailored just right for your family so we encourage you to read through it ahead of time and curate the questions and activities that will serve your family best.

We have also included a **Christmas Outreach** section so that you can see what Advent looks like at Central and find inspiration to be a blessing to others this Christmas.

We hope that between the weekly sermon guide and family devotional that this will be a trusty companion in helping you make the most of the advent season. ***We supply the guide, you supply an engaged heart.***

# *Christmas Outreach*

## **SPREADING THE LOVE OF JESUS**

The time of year that Canadians are most open to Jesus and the church is *Christmas*. Here are a number of ideas to inspire you to spread the love of Jesus to those around you and make the most of this advent season.

### **ADOPT OF FAMILY**

Is there a family that could benefit from presents, essentials, and a special meal this Christmas? Whether on your own, as a family, a group of friends, or a Life Group, this is a practical way to show a family the love of Christ at Christmas.

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

The lighting of advent candles is a wonderful way to gather the family and anticipate the incarnation together each week. Utilize the candle lighting portions of the Family Devotional, followed by a time of prayer – thanking God for sending His Son Jesus – and lighting of the candle.

### **BACKPACKS OF HOPE**

Fill a backpack...or two...or five to support children, youth, and adults in need in our campus communities. Backpacks will be provided Sundays and throughout the week from *November 19 - December 3*. Bags to be brought back stocked up with items on the list provided by December 10. You can also give online towards Backpacks of Hope by selecting that line on the giving page. Join sorting teams in Chilliwack (Dec 11), Harrison (Dec 13), and Promontory (Dec 17).

### **BLESS THOSE EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP THIS YEAR**

Get creative in finding ways to brighten what may be a dark Christmas for those experiencing hardship with the light of Christ. Offer to cover some of the items on their Christmas lists, provide a meal over the holidays, pay a bill, or drop off a card with a message of hope and a generous gift inside.

**CAROLLING**

Gather a group of singers together and go sing carols at seniors homes, the hospital, or through your neighbourhood this Christmas season. Not only is carolling festive and heart-warming, many Christmas carols are filled with rich gospel truths. Proclaim the gospel through song!

**CENTRAL YOUTH CHRISTMAS BANQUET**

All grade 6-12 students are invited to join us for our 12th Annual Formal Youth Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 13 with dinner, games, amazing prizes, Christmas carols, and a very special guest speaker, Geoff Stewart. Find out more at [centralcommunity.ca/youthchristmas](http://centralcommunity.ca/youthchristmas).

**CHRISTMAS BAKING**

Get out the red and green sprinkles and do some Christmas baking. Deliver them to your neighbours and others in your life who would be blessed by them. They'll be glad to have you in the neighbourhood and it will give you opportunity to be a blessing and get to know them more.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

These 60-minute services will be filled with carols, candlelight, children's performances, and a brief Christmas message. Statistically, most people get involved in church because of being invited by a friend and people are more open than ever at Christmas. So invite people in your life and come celebrate the meaning of Christmas with us at one of our services.

**CHILLIWACK:** 9.30AM | 10.45AM | 12.00PM  
**AGASSIZ:** 10.45AM  
**PROMONTORY:** 10.45AM  
**LAKE ERROCK:** 10.45AM  
**HARRISON:** 10.45AM



**GIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO YOUR SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Bless your mail carrier, sanitation worker, doctor, teacher, etc. with a Christmas gift.

**HOST A BLOCK PARTY**


Breaking out the fire pit, offering some baked goods, hot beverages, and a few games for the kids is all it takes to gather the neighbourhood to enjoy the season together and build relationship.

**SHOVEL SNOW**

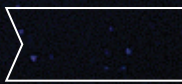
If it snows over the holidays, skip the gym and shovel your neighbours' driveways and sidewalks.

*\*Pray, consider, plan, and practice one or multiple things that bless those around you this Christmas. Consider – in light of what Christ has done for you – what you, your family, and your Life Group can do to shine His light upon others.*





*The First Meet of Aqvent*  
THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON



# *The First Week of Advent*

## THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON

*She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.*

- REVELATION 12:5

### **READ THE TEXT**

Revelation 12:1-6

### **REFLECTION**

As the Christmas season approaches, it can be easy to spend our time just looking at the day-to-day things happening around us and feel like it is all out of control. But as John writes Revelation 12, he gives us a very different look at what is going on. He describes the birth of Jesus in apocalyptic language, describing the covenant people of God as a woman giving birth, and Satan as a dragon waiting to devour this child. The dragon is pictured with many heads and crowns, even sweeping away stars with its tail. However, God's power is not challenged. Jesus, this child, is the one who will rule all the nations, and all of Satan's power can do nothing to stop God's plan. When we pull back the curtain this Christmas season, we are reminded that God's plan has never been in danger. God protected the baby Jesus as Satan wanted to destroy Him, and He still protects His people today. While things can seem out of control from our vantage point, we are called to remember that Jesus is the one who sits upon the throne, and His rule is not in doubt.

### **RESPONSE**

- What things in your life do you worry about because they are out of your control? How can you remind yourself this week that God is in control?
- How does God's protection of Jesus during His birth give you confidence in God's protection now?

- How does God's protection of Jesus during his birth give you confidence in God's protection now?
- How does the reality of the spiritual realm help reorient our lives toward God? What are practical things we can do to keep this in mind?

**CAROL: SONG OF THE SEASON**

*Joy to the World*

**PRAYER**

*Our Heavenly Father, we thank you that you sent Jesus into this world to rule over all the nations. We thank you that you protected him and brought him to your throne. We thank you that you care for us and protect your people. Help us trust in your power as we humbly serve you. Amen!*

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING**

- Psalm 2
- Isaiah 26:17-18
- Matthew 2:13-23
- Matthew 4:8-11
- 1 John 5:4-5



# Family Devotional

## WEEK 1

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Select one child from your family to light the first candle, the candle of hope.

#### TRADITIONAL HYMN

Sing or listen to the first verse of  
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

*God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

#### MODERN HYMN

Read or listen to the first verse of  
"For Countless Years the Dragon Roared"

*For countless years, the Dragon roared  
And men would fight in vain with sword.  
Though many sought with might to slay,  
The Serpent's strength grew day by day.  
In darker days, the Dragon's breath  
Enslaved our fathers unto death.  
They thought to worship stones and beasts,  
While on their souls the Dragon feasts.*

### DEVOTIONAL READINGS

This is not the typical Christmas story we know about a young couple on their way to Bethlehem to have a baby. Instead, this is a story about an epic battle between Jesus Christ and a dragon, where good overcomes evil, death is defeated, and a baby brings hope to a dark world.

**Ask a child to read Revelation 12:1-6 from the NIRV Bible.**

#### REFLECTION

- Who does the child in this passage represent?
- Who or what does the red dragon represent?
- What does it mean when it says that the dragon wants to eat the baby?
- What ultimately happens to the baby in this passage?

#### WATCH

"There's A Dragon In My Nativity" by Speak Life on YouTube (3:01)

**DIGGING DEEPER (FOR FURTHER STUDY)**

- Read Psalm 2:7-9: Who is this psalm about? What does Jesus do with his iron sceptre? Why does our passage in Revelation quote this verse and remind us of his sceptre? (Hint: does a knight use anything to fight a dragon?)
- Read Luke 2:1-20 & Matt. 2:1-11: How does God use angels and stars in the birth of Jesus?

**FUN EXTRAS**

- Bake cookies in the shapes of stars and/or angels while you talk about the Christmas story.
- Use Lego to recreate the story from Revelation 12.

**PRAYER**

*Dear Heavenly Father, our world can be dark and scary and full of dragons like evil, sickness, and death. Thank you that you are all powerful and that you sent your son Jesus to be our dragon slayer. Help us to place our hope in you, knowing that you have conquered all. Amen!*



*The Second Fleet of Aqvent*

THE VICTORY OF THE LAMB



# *The Second Week of Advent*

## THE VICTORY OF THE LAMB

*And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

- REVELATION 12:11

### READ THE TEXT

Revelation 12:7-12

### REFLECTION

This section describes in apocalyptic, otherworldly language the spiritual war that raged between Michael (the great angelic prince) and his angelic forces, and the dragon and his league of demons. After the dragon's decisive defeat, a heavenly herald proclaimed that the victory of God had come. Satan's defeat was only made possible because Jesus humbly took on flesh and blood through His incarnation, and then years later shed that blood as the perfect Lamb of God. Jesus' birth and death cannot be separated. Fascinatingly, God's people contribute to the dragon's defeat as we bear witness of the Lamb's victorious death. While the decisive victory has been won, the war is not yet over. The devil continues to furiously fight his inevitable end by wreaking havoc on earth because he knows the soon coming second advent of the Lamb will mark his final, eternal destruction.

### RESPONSE

- How much power do you typically attribute to Satan? Revelation 12:7-12 describes the dragon's decisive defeat, the saints' contribution to his defeat, and the declaration that this defeated foe's time on earth is short. How do these truths impact your perception of the devil's power?
- Reflect on the effect that Christ's victory on the cross has had on your standing before God. Satan, your constant accuser, has been thrown down and conquered. Condemnation can no longer crush you, because Christ is interceding for you (Romans 8:31-34).



- When we hear of the persecution of believers around the world, we don't typically connect this suffering with Christian victory. Nevertheless, Revelation 12:11 describes Christians' deaths as contributing to conquering Satan! How can the imagery of victorious martyrs grant you hope and comfort in the midst of suffering and even persecution?

**CAROL: SONG OF THE SEASON**

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

**PRAYER**

*Jesus, thank you for defeating Satan by shedding your blood on the cross. We rejoice with the heavens that your salvation, power and kingdom have come. As we celebrate your advent a couple millenia ago, we anticipate your second advent to bring Satan's final end and establish your kingdom in its fullness. In the meantime, help us faithfully bear witness of your birth, life, death and resurrection in the face of suffering, persecution and even death. Amen!*

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING**

- Daniel 10:13,21; 12:1
- Colossians 2:13-15
- Luke 10:17-20
- John 12:27-32
- Ephesians 2:1-7, 6:10-20
- Romans 8:31-39



# Family Devotional

## WEEK 2

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Select one child from your family to light the first candle, the candle of hope.

#### TRADITIONAL HYMN

Sing or listen to the first two verses of  
"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

*O come, O Come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.*

#### MODERN HYMN

Read or listen to the second verse of  
"For Countless Years the Dragon  
Roared"

*A Greater Might, a Hero bold,  
Came thundering down the halls of  
gold.  
He came with shouts as soft as cries.  
He came with virgin's lullabies.  
He fought with weapons yet unknown.  
The Dragon scoffed to see this Foe.  
A MAN? This flesh would quickly die.  
And in a tomb this Lord would lie.*

### DEVOTIONAL READINGS

When Jesus was born, the dark powers of the unseen world tried everything to destroy the little Christ child from going to the cross to save humanity. In the heavens, there was a war between angels and the dragon. On earth, King Herod sent his Roman soldiers to eliminate the newborn king. But God's rescue plan to save people from sin could not be stopped.

**Review the events of Rev 12:1-6 with your children. Then ask a child to read Revelation 12:7-12 from the NIRV Bible.**

### REFLECTION

- Look closely at v.9 and discuss all the names used to describe the enemy.
- In v.11, who has won the victory? How were they victorious?
- After the dragon was thrown out of heaven, where did he go? What does that mean for our lives right now?

**WATCH**

*"The Satan and Demons"* by The Bible Project on YouTube (6:19) \*Parent discretion required as this video may only be appropriate for ages 8 and up.

- Why would Jesus' birth bring so much hate from the Devil? Why does he hate God?

**DIGGING DEEPER (FOR FURTHER STUDY)**

Read Daniel 10:1-14: Who is Michael? What more do we learn about Michael from these verses?

Read Exodus 1:15-2:10 & Matt. 2:13-21: How is Jesus' birth story similar to the story of Moses? Why do you think evil powers wanted both Moses and Jesus to die?

**FUN EXTRAS**

- Have a Christmas movie night with treats and the movie *"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."* Talk about how Aslan's life mirrors Jesus.
- Have your kids try writing a Christmas song inspired by Revelation 12:10-12.

**PRAYER**

*Dear Heavenly Father, when Jesus died and rose again, He won the war in heaven. Thank you that Jesus' blood has given us victory over Satan. Help me remember that your victory has given us peace with God forever and ever. Amen!*



*The Third Fleet of Aqvent*

DIVINE DELIVERANCE IN A COSMIC CONFLICT

# *The Third Week of Advent*

## **DIVINE DELIVERANCE IN A COSMIC CONFLICT**

*But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.*

- REVELATION 12:14

### **READ THE TEXT**

Revelation 12:13-17

### **REFLECTION**

Christmas is most often viewed as a declaration of peace, not of war or conflict. Yet from the beginning Satan has hated and sought to destroy the people of God because his intent has been to destroy and derail God's plan of salvation in Christ (Genesis 3:15). Our enemy does not want our freedom. But Satan doesn't win. Jesus was born and then He decisively triumphed over Satan at the cross (Colossians 2:13-15). And yet, Satan rages on. Knowing that his time is short, our enemy does all he can to keep people from experiencing new life in Christ (John 10:10). But just as God cared for and provided for "the woman" (Eve, Israel, Mary...now the church), He will continue to deliver His people to a place of safety. Satan is a destroyer who hates the righteous remnant of God (Zechariah 13:7-9), but God, through Christ, is victorious – as are we, when we walk in obedience to God and hold to the testimony about Jesus!

### **RESPONSE**

- In what areas of your personal life, family, other relationships, and church community, are you experiencing the conflict of this spiritual battle? What does the struggle look like?
- Which commandments of God do you find the most challenging to keep, and where are you experiencing victory?
- What would it look like, in your life, to "hold to the testimony of Jesus"? Who needs to hear your testimony?!

**CAROL: SONG OF THE SEASON**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

**PRAYER**

*"How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you!" (2 Samuel 7:22). Thank you that your great plan of salvation through Christ has been accomplished, and that the battle for my soul was won at the cross. As the enemy presses in to attack me, please deliver me and give me the victory in your strength and power. Thank you for your protection over my life. Help me to walk in obedience to your commands and to hold to the testimony of Jesus to the end. Amen!*

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING**

- Deuteronomy 32:9-12
- Psalm 136
- Isaiah 40
- John 10:1-18
- Colossians 1:15-20
- Colossians 2:6-15





# Family Devotional

## WEEK 3

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Select one child from your family to light the first, second, and third candle. The third candle is the candle of joy.

#### TRADITIONAL HYMN

Sing or listen to "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," especially verse three.

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way,  
With painful steps and slow.  
Look now! For glad and golden hours,  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!*

#### MODERN HYMN

Read or listen to the third verse of "For Countless Years the Dragon Roared"

*But then, the blinded Snake of old,  
Mistook the plan that would unfold. For  
by the very death of God,  
The Serpent's head would bite the sod.  
The first blow fell. And ever since,  
His saints have followed still their Prince.  
Slaying dragons left and right,  
With infant songs and Christmas lights.*

### DEVOTIONAL READINGS

The Christmas story is not just a story about a manger, a baby, a star, and some camels and donkeys. It is actually a story about the power of God and the how far he will go to rescue his people. The power that brought the Christ child to earth at Christmas is the same power that today gives us protection, strength, and help in times of trouble. He is our great rescuer - joy to the world!

**Review the events of Rev 12:1-12 with your children. Then, ask a child to read Revelation 12:13-17 from the NIRV Bible.**

### REFLECTION

- Who does the woman in this passage represent?
- Why is the dragon angry? Because of his anger, what does he try to do?
- Is the dragon successful?
- In what ways does God take care of his people?

**DIGGING DEEPER (FOR FURTHER STUDY)**

- Read Exodus 19:4-5 & Isaiah 40:31: Talk about the imagery of eagle's wings used in these passages. What do the wings represent? Why is the woman in Revelation 12:14 given wings like an eagle?
- Read the story of the parting of the Red Sea in either a storybook Bible or in Exodus 14: How is the story of the Red Sea similar to the story of the woman in Rev. 12? How does God use even nature to protect his people? Who is more powerful - God or the dragon?

**FUN EXTRAS**

- Using paper, clay, string and/or other craft supplies, make either an eagle or a pair of wings to be displayed on your Christmas tree. Talk about how eagles' wing symbolize God's provision and strength for his people.
- Gather together some food or gifts to donate to your local food bank. Talk about how God provides for us, and how we can provide for others.

**PRAYER**

*Dear Heavenly Father, we are in desperate need of you. Our own sin and our enemy the Devil work to keep us far from you. At Christmas time, we remember how you gave us a perfect rescuer, your son Jesus. Thank you that you always love us, protect us, and provide for us. Give us joy today as we remember your salvation. Amen!*



*The Fourth Meet of Advent*

CHRISTMAS EVE



# The Fourth Week of Advent

## CHRISTMAS EVE

*"She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations..."*

- REVELATION 12:5

### REVIEW

This Advent we have been studying the birth of Christ from the cosmic perspective of Revelation 12. Verses 1-6 depict the coming of Jesus and introduce the woman, the birth of Christ, and the dragon; verses 7-12 describe a war in heaven and a victory song, representing the defeat of Satan; and verses 13-17 describe the church era and the spiritual warfare we are engaged, noting the dragon's desire – and ultimate failure – to destroy the people of God.

### REFLECTION

Not only is Revelation 12 a cosmic view of the Christmas story we know and love so much, it is also a summary of the grand story of the Bible. In Revelation's typical apocalyptic imagery, it looks to the past, addresses the present, and points to the future. God sent a Saviour (12:1-2, 5), just as He promised He would way back in Genesis 3:15. That Saviour accomplished salvation and did so by His blood (12:11). And now God provides for His Church in our war against Satan, with the certain hope that just as he failed to destroy the baby boy, he will fail in destroying the children of God as well (12:14-17). And just as Jesus came once, He is surely coming again!

### RESPONSE

- What is your favourite thing about Christmas? (We all know Jesus is the right answer but spend a few minutes thinking about or discussing some of the other elements that you enjoy and why)
- How has the Christmas story according to the Book of Revelation altered or deepened your perception of the coming of Christ?

**CAROL: SONG OF THE SEASON**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**PRAYER**

*Jesus, we love you. Thank you for the incarnation, for making salvation possible for us at your expense. Thank you that Satan's defeat is a certainty because you have already accomplished the victory. Thank you that you sent your Spirit and built your church as the means supplied to fight sin and make a difference in the world as we make much of you. Christmas feels transcendent and reminds us that you have come and will come again. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen!*

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING**

- Genesis 3:14-15
- Isaiah 9:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-2:12
- Luke 2:1-20
- Galatians 4:1-7



# Family Devotional

## WEEK 4

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Select one child from your family to light all four candles. The fourth candle is the candle of love.

#### TRADITIONAL HYMN

Sing or listen to the first verse of  
"O Holy Night"

*O Holy night! The stars are  
brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear  
Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and  
error pining,  
Til He appeared and the soul  
felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world  
rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and  
glorious morn.*

#### MODERN HYMN

Read or listen to the fourth verse of "For  
Countless Years the Dragon Roared"

*They die with praises on their tongues.  
The Serpent hasn't learned his wrongs.  
He seeks to crush the battle hymns -  
But death no longer seems so grim.  
For with His resurrection fist,  
Our Lord has crushed the jaws of death.  
And little children laugh to see  
The Dragon's teeth hung on a tree.  
And in a tomb this Lord would lie.*

### DEVOTIONAL READINGS

Throughout this Christmas season, we have been looking at the manger scene from a new perspective. In this passage, God has given us a peek into a bigger reality, one in which a baby born in a stable is actually the great warrior who will defeat the vicious dragon. God uses this story to tell us how much He loves us - the baby born at Christmas would one day grow up and die so that we might have victory through Him!

**As a family, read all of Revelation 12 from the NIRV Bible.**

### REFLECTION

- What have you learned about God from this passage in Revelation?
- How do you think the dragon felt on Christmas Day, the first day of the battle?
- Does knowing that the battle is already won change how we live our lives? How about when hard times come?

**DIGGING DEEPER (FOR FURTHER STUDY)**

- Read Revelation 20:10: These verses tell us about the dragon's future. What will happen to him in the end? Who is the winner of the battle that started in chapter 12?
- Read Revelation 21:1-4 & 22:3-5: These verses tell us about our future. What will happen to us in the end? What are you looking forward to about that day?

**FUN EXTRAS**

- Create or buy a small dragon figure to add to your family's nativity scene or hang on your Christmas tree. Talk about how the dragon can remind you of the epic battle of good vs. evil and how Jesus is our dragon-slayer.
- Have your children draw a picture of what they think heaven will look like. Hang it up on the wall during the Christmas season to remind you that just as Jesus came once, He will surely come again.

**PRAYER**

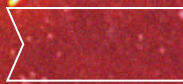
*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word and that we can study it to learn more about you and how you have rescued us. This Christmas, may we remember how deeply you love us. Help us to look forward to being with you forever someday, when you make all things perfect and new. Amen!*





*Christmas Day*

THE NIGHT OF THE WORLD



# *Christmas Day*

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

*He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!*

REVELATION 22:20

*And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.*

MATTHEW 24:14

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. <sup>11</sup>Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, <sup>12</sup>looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. <sup>13</sup>But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. <sup>14</sup>And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. <sup>15</sup>And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.

2 PETER 3:8-15

**REFLECTION**

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is a message of God's saving grace in Jesus, whose final glory is yet to come. Thus we pray for Him to come quickly because we love Him, trust Him, and long for the fulfillment of our hope and His glory. He is our great hope and eternal treasure.

ESV GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION BIBLE

**RESPONSE**

These passages speak of Christ's unexpected and imminent return. If He were to come tomorrow, would you be found ready? Is your life one lived simply with the present in view or does eternity inform your present every day life?

As this Advent season comes to a close, reflect on how God has used it to teach you and draw the longings of your heart towards the One who can truly satisfy them.

**CAROL: SONG OF THE SEASON**

*O Come Let Us Adore Him*

**PRAYER**

*As the people of the old covenant longed for the Messiah to come, I want to long for the day when you come again. May my desires align more with your desires and may you become, more and more, my chief desire and affection. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen!*

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING**

- Isaiah 7:14
- Jeremiah 31:31-35
- Luke 1:39-45; 46-56; 2:8-20

*Merry  
Christmas*



# Worship


## SONGS FOR THE SEASON



Centuries-old classics and recent originals to help us make room in our hearts for the arrival of Jesus.

---

Want to listen to Central's **Advent** Spotify playlist?

Open up the Spotify App on your mobile device, tap on 'Search', and use the Camera icon  to scan the code below.

Alternatively you can search for 'Songs For the Season | Advent 2023' in the Spotify App.

Visit: [centralcommunity.ca/Advent](https://centralcommunity.ca/Advent) for a direct link.





This resource was created by and for  
Central Community Church  
Chilliwack | Agassiz | Promontory | Lake Errock | Harrison

You are permitted to use and share this Study Guide,  
as long as you do not change or add to it  
in any way, or charge for the guide.

**[centralcommunity.ca](http://centralcommunity.ca)**



CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH



**MISSION:**

WE EXIST TO BE **AUTHENTIC** FOLLOWERS OF **JESUS** WHO **LEAD** OTHERS TO **FOLLOW HIM**.

**VISION:**

WE AIM TO SEE THE ENTIRE EASTERN FRASER VALLEY **TRANSFORMED** BY THE **GOSPEL** FOR THE **GLORY OF GOD** AND GOOD OF **ALL PEOPLE**.

**VALUES:**

**CENTRED ON THE GOSPEL**  
**ROOTED IN THE BIBLE**  
**GATHERED IN COMMUNITY**  
**EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT**  
**EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY**  
**SENT ON MISSION**

*Cosmic*  
CHRISTMAS

