



MWA Home and Overseas - November 2017

Journeying through Advent

This month's paper looks forward to Advent, and uses some material prepared by the Mothers' Union for Advent. Choose one or more of these activities below:

- (1) an Advent prayer idea - Gift of Praise
- (2) a calendar as an aid for the Advent journey. If possible, distribute one copy for each member to take away for personal use. At your meeting, discuss the daily suggestions: Which ones are the most helpful ideas?
- (3) Advent and Christmas prayers. As part of your MWA meeting, ask different people to read each part, and light a candle after they read, to symbolise their faith in Christ as light of the world.

(1) Gift of Praise – a prayer idea for Advent

As an MWA Circle, make a gift of praise for God. Giftwrap a small cardboard box and tie a bright ribbon around it or paste a large square of giftwrap onto backing paper and add ribbons so it looks like a present.

Then on small pieces of paper or sticky labels each member can draw or write something they wish to thank God for.

Write the following verse on a piece of card and display it by the box.

We thank you, our God, and praise you.

1 Chronicles 29:13

This idea is taken from: [Creative Ideas for Advent & Christmas](#)

80 seasonal activities for use with children by Jane Tibbs. The book contains a wealth of inspirational easy-to-do ideas for the busy weeks in the lead-up to Christmas. All the ideas use readily available materials and have instant appeal.

Many can be slotted in to any situation, used to illustrate the story of Christmas, or just done for pure enjoyment as part of the exciting 'getting ready' time. www.brfoonline.org.uk

(2) Journeying through Advent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 26</p> <p>Give thanks that the hope of Christ shines as light in the darkness</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ask God to give you hope and expectation for your Advent journey</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Reflect on how the events of this year may affect your attitude to the season</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Consider your “to do” list this Advent. Is there scope to simplify in any way?</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Thank God that as we journey to the new-born Christ our risen Lord accompanies us</p>	<p>December 01</p> <p>Choose a Bible verse about the nativity and use it as an inspiration for prayer</p>	<p>02</p> <p>Pray for those whose difficult lives are more heard to bear in this season of good cheer</p>
<p>03</p> <p>Give thanks for our Prince of Peace, and for our call to be peace-makers in the world</p>	<p>04</p> <p>Pray for the message of Christmas to be heard amidst the season’s commercialisation</p>	<p>05</p> <p>Thank God for Mary’s obedience. Is there something you sense God is asking of you?</p>	<p>06</p> <p>Pray for areas of the world where there will be no peace this Christmas</p>	<p>07</p> <p>Choose a favourite carol and use it as an inspiration for prayer</p>	<p>08</p> <p>How would you explain the meaning of the nativity to someone who had never heard?</p>	<p>09</p> <p>Pray for refugees spending Christmas away from home and family</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Give thanks that the love of Christ brings forgiveness and new mercies every day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>As you write cards or send email greetings pray God’s blessing for the recipients</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Read an account of the nativity in a different Bible version for a fresh insight</p>	<p>13</p> <p>On your Advent journey pray for all who are seeking Christ for the first time</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Enjoy the aroma of seasonal spices and reflect on the fragrant offering of Christ <i>Ephesians 5:2</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Think of a good memory from a past Christmas and thank God for it</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pray for families who struggle to provide necessities and treats for their family</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Give thanks for the joy we have now and for eternity through the coming of Christ</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for families who will be apart or in conflict this Christmas</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Choose a Bible verse about Christ’s second coming and use it as an inspiration for prayer</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pray for the homeless that they will find shelter during this season</p>	<p>21</p> <p>As you taste a seasonal treat give thanks for Christ who came as the bread of life</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Reflect on what may lie ahead in the coming year. Be honest with God about your hopes and concerns</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pray for the bereaved spending their first Christmas without a loved one</p>

24

Make ready to hear
the angels' glad
tidings and to join in
praise with the
company of heaven

25

Joy to the world, the
Lord has come! Let
earth receive her
King!

