

# Advent Prayer Calendar

*A prayer resource for children and families*



# Hope for the world

*“And his name will be the hope of all the world.”*

*Matthew 12:21 (NLT)*

## What does hope mean?

Maybe you are hoping for a special Christmas present this year... a doll, a bike or a computer. When the Bible talks about hope, it is not about wishing something nice for yourself, but about trusting that God will do what He says, even though we do not see it yet.

In the Old Testament, we read that God promises that a Messiah or Saviour would come. This Messiah would come to save the people and bring peace and justice forever (Isaiah 9:6-7). And in Luke 2, we read that Jesus, the Messiah, was born. This was good news of great joy for all people!



But today, more than 2 billion people still have not heard this good news. Will you join us this Advent to pray that all people will be able to hear about Jesus?

Each day, you are invited to pray for a country or people group who needs to hear about this hope. On the last day of the week, there is an activity you can do as a family to share this hope by showing others God's love. Have fun!

# Hope for the nations

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## 1 Eritrea

Eritreans are known for cycling and distance running. Pray that they would place their hope in Jesus and press on toward the goal of Heaven.

## 2 Azerbaijan

Azeris have a unique music tradition. Pray that they will use their music to sing of the hope that only Jesus can bring.

## 3 Japan

Many young people in Japan feel lonely. Pray that they will find hope and a purpose through Jesus.



## 4 Mali

Mali has a history of great empires. Pray that Malians would hear of Jesus and place their hope in the everlasting Kingdom of God.

## 5 Italy

Italians have world famous food such as pasta, gelato and pizza. Pray that the people would hope in Jesus, the Bread of Life.

## 6 Brunei

Brunei is a wealthy country due to oil and gas. Pray that they will put their hope in Jesus rather than money.

# 7

# Sharing Hope



## Talk

As a family, discuss who around you could use some hope today. Maybe a neighbour who is sick or someone who is sad or alone. Think of three ways you can share hope with them. For example, visit them, write a card or bring them a little gift with a Bible verse.

## Action

Pick one of your ideas and share hope with them.

# Peace for the nations

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Matthew 12:21 (NLT)



## 8 Sudan

Millions of Sudanese had to leave their homes because of the war. Pray that they will find a safe place with God. Also pray for peace in the country.

## 9 Democratic Republic of the Congo

This country has had unrest for many years. Pray that the Prince of Peace, Jesus, will change the hearts of the people forever.

## 10 Ukraine

War is very frightening. Pray that Ukrainians would seek Jesus and find His perfect peace.



## 11 Afghanistan

Most people living in Afghanistan have never experienced peace in their country. Pray that God will end the violence and bring peace.

## 12 Russia

Many people in Russia have been affected by the war too. Pray that they will hear about Jesus and find hope in His name.

## 13 Conflict in the Middle East

Pray for peace for Israel, Palestine and their neighbours. Pray that they would know Jesus, the Messiah, who can bring real peace.

# 14

# Sharing Peace



## Talk

Read: *“Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself. And God gave us the work of bringing everyone into peace with him.”*

2 Corinthians 5:18 (ICB)

What do you think this verse means? How can you and your family bring the peace of Jesus into your neighbourhood?

## Action

Choose one of these action points:

- Is there someone that you need to say sorry to? Do this today and make sure you live in peace with others.
- Share with someone in your community that Jesus came so that they can have peace with God.



# Joy for the nations

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## 15 Abkhaz (Georgia)

The Abkhaz people love to dance. Pray that they will learn about Christ and dance for joy because of what He has done.

## 16 Sundanese (Indonesia)

The Sundanese show their joy through music and drama. Pray that God will use Christian artists to share the gospel through music.

## 17 Rakhine (Myanmar)

The Rakhine enjoy street food. Pray that they will learn about Jesus, who is the Bread of life.



## 18 Basque (Spain)

The Basque enjoy a good party, a fiesta. Pray that many Basque people will accept Jesus and celebrate that He came for them.

## 19 Somali (Somalia)

Somali people enjoy sharing stories with one another. Pray that this Christmas, they will hear that Jesus came for them too.

## 20 Mandinka (West-Africa)

The Mandinka enjoy sharing stories through songs. Pray that they will learn about Jesus and sing about His love for us.

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# Sharing Joy



## Talk

What makes you happy?

How do you think you can make others happy?

## Action

Do something as a family that will bring joy to someone else. Here are some ideas:

- Sing Christmas carols in an elderly home
- Invite someone who is alone to play a board game at your house

# Love for the nations

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## 22 Antandroy (Madagascar)

The Antandroy live in an area of Madagascar called Androy, the land of thorns. Pray that they will know that Jesus chose to wear a crown of thorns because He loves them.

## 23 Roma (Albania)

The Roma people do not have a country to call their own. Those that live in Albania are not welcomed by most people. Pray that Christians will show them the love of Jesus.

## 24 Fulani (Niger)

The Fulani are shepherds who move around with their cattle. Pray that they will meet Jesus like the shepherds in the Christmas story and will know that Jesus loves them.



*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

**JOHN 3:16 (NIV)**

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# Sharing Love

## Talk

We often celebrate Christmas with family. Jesus said that when we show love to someone else, it is like we are doing it for Him (read more in Matthew 25:34-40). For example, you can show love by sharing a meal, providing for people's needs, visiting them and so much more. What can you do as a family this Christmas to share love with those around you?

## Action

Decide together on one thing you will do as a family today to share God's love with someone outside your family.



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