



### ABOUT THIS RESOURCE:

Its goals are (1) to aid fathers and heads of household in leading their families to discover the timeless, essential and biblical truths of the Christmas story and their application to life, and (2) to equip men of every family status to dig into Scripture during this season, so they might know Him better, value Him more highly and live for Him every day. Questions are taken from “The New Covenant Catechism for Little Ones” © 2016 by Joel Settecase.

### HOW TO USE:

If you’re using this with your family, review each day’s devo in advance, to get the lay of the land and think about how to make it yours. Every day, grab your Bible and copy of “Advent Devos.” Pray together, then read (or have someone read) the Scripture **Reading** and the **Teaching** piece together. The **Catechism** questions can be memorized or simply read aloud and repeated. Pursue truth and application together with the **Discussion** questions, then close with a **Prayer**, following the prompt.

### DAY 1

**Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

**Catechism:** (#1) Who is God? *The Lord is God.*

**Teaching:** The Christmas story begins with the truth that the Lord is God, and He is one. Nothing else must be more important to us than knowing Him. We learn who God is, what He has done and how we are to obey Him, by studying His book: the Bible.

### Discussion

- What is the big idea you think God has for you here?
- What is one way that you have not followed this teaching like God would want you to?
- Where do you see Jesus in this passage?
- Now, what can we do to honor and obey God better?

**Prayer:** God, thank you for....

### DAY 2

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

**Catechism:** (#4) Who are the persons in the Godhead? *The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

**Teaching:** God the Father sent His Son (Jesus) to save His people. While on earth, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. Now He sends the Holy Spirit to live inside those who receive Him, and He makes His people one--together, in love, as God is one.

### Discussion

- Why is this answer to today’s catechism question important to our faith?
- What is one way that you have not followed this teaching like God would want you to?
- How does this verse point out why we need Jesus to be our Savior?
- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for....

**DAY 3****Reading:** 2 Timothy 3:14-17.**Catechism:** (#19) What do we call the word of God? *The Holy Bible is the word of God.***Teaching:** The Bible has 66 books by 40 authors, with one story: God's Son came to live the perfect life and die for sinners like us; He rose from the dead and now reigns. The Bible feeds our souls like food feeds our bodies. We need it every day.**Discussion**

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- Why are these verses in the Bible? Why do we need them?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?
- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** Father, help us to believe that....**DAY 4****Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-3**Catechism:** (#20) What are the two parts of the Bible? *The Old Testament and the New Testament.***Teaching:** The Old Testament tells the stories of many great heroes and prophets. However, none of the Old Testament heroes compare to Jesus. He's greater than them all--and they all point to Him. As followers of Jesus, our lives are to point to Him as well.**Discussion**

- What is the big idea you think God has for you here?
- What does this tell us about God's law and how you do not measure up?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?
- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** Father, thank you that....**DAY 5****Reading:** Romans 3:20-24**Catechism:** (#22) What does the Old Testament teach us about God? *God is good, God's never wrong, God is kind and God is strong. God is the holy judge of everyone. God will send us His own Son.***Teaching:** Under the Old Covenant, Israel had God's law, which reminded them of their failure to obey and need of a Savior. Jesus came to be that promised Savior.**Discussion**

- Why is this answer to today's catechism question important to our faith?
- Why are these verses in the Bible? Why do we need them?
- How does this verse point out why we need Jesus to be our Savior?
- Now, what can we do to honor and obey God better?

**Prayer:** Lord, forgive us for....**DAY 6****Reading:** Colossians 1:13-20**Catechism:** (#23) What does the New Testament teach us about God? *God sent Jesus, His own Son, to reveal Himself to everyone.***Teaching:** The Christmas story is the story of God the Son coming down to our level, to bring us to be with Him. Our Creator came down to become our Savior. We owe Jesus our lives... our faith...everything!**Discussion**

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- What do you need to ask forgiveness for, as you think about how we don't obey God perfectly?
- Where do you see Jesus in this passage?
- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** God, help us to love....

**DAY 7****Reading:** 1 John 3:4-8**Catechism:** (#27) What is sin? *Sin is disobeying God.***Teaching:** God is holy and deserves our obedience, but all our lives we have disobeyed Him. Only Jesus ever obeyed God perfectly. He became a human to save His people, by suffering the punishment for our sin. That is what Christmas is all about.**Discussion**

- Why is this answer to today's catechism question important to our faith?
- What is one way that you have not followed this teaching like God would want you to?
- How does this verse point out why we need Jesus to be our Savior?
- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for....**DAY 8****Reading:** Galatians 3:10-14**Catechism:** (#32) Can we escape God's wrath over our sin by being good? *No. No one can be good enough for God.***Teaching:** Our sin has earned us God's curse (punishment). We can't do anything to get right with God--that only comes through Jesus. Christmas is about Jesus coming to save everyone who stops trying to be good enough and *simply trusts in Him.***Discussion**

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- What do you need to ask forgiveness for, as you think about how we don't obey God perfectly?
- Where do you see Jesus in this passage?
- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** God, forgive us when we....**DAY 9****Reading:** John 3:16-18**Catechism:** (#33) Then how can we escape God's anger and curse? *We must be saved by the Savior God sent.***Teaching:** The meaning of Christmas is summarized in John 3:16. God loved the world in the most amazing way possible: He gave what was most important to Him, His Son. This is good news, and God wants us to learn it, know it, and share it with others.**Discussion**

- Why is this answer to today's catechism question important to our faith?
- Why are these verses in the Bible? Why do we need them?
- How does this verse point out why we need Jesus to be our Savior?
- Now, what can we do to honor and obey God better?

**Prayer:** Father, help us to obey your command to....**DAY 10****Reading:** Romans 1:16-17.**Catechism:** (#37) How were people saved under the Old Covenant, before Jesus came? *By God's free gift, through faith in the promised Savior.***Teaching:** The story of Jesus's life, death, resurrection and reign is called the Gospel. Everyone who believes the Gospel--who has *faith* in Jesus is made right with God. In the Old Covenant, Israel waited for Jesus. But now He has come. Pass it on!**Discussion**

- What is the big idea you think God has for you here?
- What does this tell us about God's law and how you do not measure up?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?
- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** Jesus, help us to....

**DAY 11****Reading:** Romans 10:9-17**Catechism:** (#38) How are people saved in the New Covenant, now that Jesus has come? *By God's free gift, through faith in the Savior, Jesus Christ.***Teaching:** Jesus's death and resurrection started the New Covenant era. Everyone who receives Him by faith is brought into God's own family as a free gift. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the only one who can save us. Many still need to hear that truth.**Discussion**

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- Why are these verses in the Bible? Why do we need them?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?
- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I'm sorry for....**DAY 12****Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34**Catechism:** (#48) What happens in the New Covenant? *God forgives and saves His people, making them righteous by the death of Jesus Christ.***Teaching:** Life's most important goal is to know God. Yet God knew that human beings would never find their way to Him, because our sin stood in the way. So Jesus came to save His people from our sins. Now we can *know* God and *obey* Him out of *love*.**Discussion**

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- What do you need to ask forgiveness for, as you think about how we don't obey God perfectly?
- Where do you see Jesus in this passage?
- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

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**Prayer:** God, I praise you for....**DAY 13****Reading:** Romans 4:4-8**Catechism:** (#50) How are Christians justified? *God forgives all my sins and calls me righteous in Christ Jesus.***Teaching:** Sinners like us need to be justified--made right with God. Often we feel like we need to *do* something to earn God's respect and love. But the truth of Christmas is that God *already* loved us, while we were sinners--and sent Jesus to save us.**Discussion**

- What is the big idea you think God has for you here?
- What is one way that you have not followed this teaching like God would want you to?
- Where do you see Jesus in this passage?
- Now, what can we do to honor and obey God better?

**Prayer:** Jesus, we worship you for...**DAY 14****Reading:** Romans 5:6-11**Catechism:** (#53) What has God done to save sinners? *God loved us and sent His Son to die for sinners just like me!***Teaching:** God had promised through the prophets to send the Messiah. When Jesus came, many were *waiting* for Him, but none was truly *living* for Him. He came to save His enemies. Whenever a sinner receives Jesus, an enemy of God becomes a friend!**Discussion**

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- Why are these verses in the Bible? Why do we need them?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?

- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you that...

**DAY 15**

**Reading:** Luke 1:26-33

**Catechism:** (#54) How can you be saved? *I must repent and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.*

**Teaching:** Jesus came as Savior *and* Lord. At Advent, we recall His first coming--to save--and that we are waiting now for Him to return as King. Repentance means agreeing that He rules, not us, and turning from sin. Faith is trusting Him to save you.

**Discussion**

- What is the big idea you think God has for you here?
- What does this tell us about God's law and how you do not measure up?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?
- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** God, thank you for....

**DAY 16:**

**Reading:** Titus 3:3-8

**Catechism:** (#58) What does the New Covenant Bring? *The New Covenant brings the Holy Spirit and righteousness.*

**Teaching:** For kids, one of the best parts of Christmas is the *presents*. Jesus came to give gifts to His people: forgiveness, eternal life and the Holy Spirit, who is God Himself in us, changing us and making us more like Him--more loving and generous.

**Discussion**

- Why is this answer to today's catechism question important to our faith?
- What is one way that you have not followed this teaching like God would want you to?
- How does this verse point out why we need Jesus to be our Savior?

- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** Father, help us to believe that....

**DAY 17**

**Reading:** Matthew 1:18-21.

**Catechism:** (#65) Who is Jesus' human mother? *Mary.*

**Teaching:** Jesus became a real human, born to a real, human mother: Mary. Mary was from the family of King David, whom God had promised to set up his descendant as King forever. Jesus would be that King. Mary trusted God to keep His promises.

**Discussion**

- Why is this answer to today's catechism question important to our faith?
- What is one way that you have not followed this teaching like God would want you to?
- How does this verse point out why we need Jesus to be our Savior?
- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** God, help us to love....

**DAY 18**

**Reading:** Luke 1:31-37

**Catechism:** (#66) Did Jesus have a human father? *No. God is His Father. Joseph was His adoptive father.*

**Teaching:** Jesus is not half-God and half-man. He is fully human *and* fully God. When He became a man, He didn't *lose* something but He *gained* something: humanity. As God, He can do everything He wants to do: including save all His people.

**Discussion**

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- What do you need to ask forgiveness for, as you think about how we don't obey God perfectly?
- Where do you see Jesus in this passage?

- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** God, help us to obey your command to....

### DAY 19

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

**Catechism:** (#67) Why did Jesus come to Earth? *To die for our sins and come back to life.*

**Teaching:** Unlike other religions, Christianity is not just based on teachings but on history, on a true story. Jesus became human not just to teach, but to live the perfect life and die as an atoning sacrifice for our sins and to conquer death.

#### Discussion

- Why is this answer to today's catechism question important to our faith?
- Why are these verses in the Bible? Why do we need them?
- How does this verse point out why we need Jesus to be our Savior?
- Now, what can we do to honor and obey God better?

**Prayer:** God, I praise you for....

### DAY 20

**Reading:** Psalm 110:1-5

**Catechism:** (#68) Where is Jesus now? *With God the Father, reigning as King.*

**Teaching:** Advent ends with a remembering Jesus as a baby, but that's just the beginning of the story. He lived for 33 years. What humility God must have had to live among people! Now He reigns. With Christ as our King, we too pursue humility.

#### Discussion

- What is the big idea you think God has for you here?
- What does this tell us about God's law and how you do not measure up?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?
- So then, what can we thank God for, or how can we worship Him?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for....

### DAY 21

**Reading:** Luke 2:8-14

**Catechism:** (#79) What are angels? *Angels are good spirits who serve God and His people.*

**Teaching:** Angels are spirits who worship God and are sent to serve God's people (Hebrews 1:14). They exist to obey and glorify God--and so do we. When we sing Christmas carols that worship Jesus, we join with the angels in praising the Lord.

#### Discussion

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- Why are these verses in the Bible? Why do we need them?
- Why did Jesus need to die and rise again for this passage to be good news for you?
- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** Jesus, help us....

### DAY 22

**Reading:** Colossians 1:9-13

**Catechism:** (#82) When bad things happen, what is our hope? *After this life, we will live in His kingdom forever.*

**Teaching:** This world can be a hard place to live. Sin, pain and suffering seem to be everywhere. Bright Christmas lights at night remind us that though this world is filled with darkness and sin, Christ's Kingdom is coming, and we will be with Him forever..

#### Discussion

- How would you answer the catechism question in your words?
- What do you need to ask forgiveness for, as you think about how we don't obey God perfectly?
- Where do you see Jesus in this passage?
- Now, what can we tell others about Jesus? Why is it important to share this truth with them?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you that....