

**MUNGER ADVENT READING 2014
FAMILY PLAN**



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Family Plan

11/30 – As a family, talk about how Christ has given you hope.

12/1 - Genesis 1:1-4, 26-31

- What happened in our reading today?
- What did God tell the people to do after He created them?
- Advent ends with Christmas when we celebrate Christ's birth so all our reading will build up to that. How do you think our reading today is connected to Jesus' birth?

12/2 – Genesis 3:1-13

- What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?
- Why did the serpent encourage Eve to go ahead and eat what God had told them not to?
- Sins are the choices we make that don't please God. Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit God commanded them not to eat. When are you tempted to make decisions you know wouldn't please God?

12/3 – Genesis 12:1-9

- When God tells Abram to leave his country, what does God promise him?
- God says He will bless Abram so he can be a blessing. Since God has definitely blessed you, how can you bless others?
- Abram was the first of God's chosen people, the Israelites. Take a few minutes to look up who the Israelites were and what some of their story will hold.

12/4 – Genesis 24:1-10, 62-67

- Yesterday God made a covenant (think pact or agreement) with Abram and it involved his descendants. Isaac was his son, so he is involved. What happens to Isaac in this passage?
- Like Isaac was a part of the covenant God had with Abraham, parents, talk to your kids about promises you've made to God that your kids can be a part of. (Think – commitment to serve or give, etc.)

12/5 – Genesis 25:19-28

- Look back at the last few days' reading. Who is included in the family we're reading about so far?
- What were some differences between Jacob and Esau?
- Though Esau was the oldest, God continued the Israelite family through Jacob. This was unusual in their custom. Are there people in your life that God is using for great things that other people might not have expected great things from?

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12/6 – Genesis 37:17-36

- Jacob had 12 sons and Joseph was the favorite. Have you ever thought someone else was the favorite? How did that make you feel?
- Why did Joseph's brothers decide not to harm him?
- Reuben saved Joseph's life by convincing his brothers to choose other actions. How can you use your influence to help others?

12/7 – As a family, talk about how Christ helps you love others.

12/8 – Exodus 1:1-14

- Where are the Israelites living now?
- When God showed Abraham where he and his descendants were going to live, He called it the land of Canaan. Take a few minutes to research and see if Canaan and Egypt are the same place.
- Since the Israelites were in Egypt, which was not where God said they'd be, how do you think that made the Israelites feel? How do you think it made them feel towards God?

12/9 – Exodus 13:1-10

- What festival are they celebrating?
- The Israelites have been in Egypt for a long time, but now they get to leave! Woohoo! Where does it say that God is taking them?
- Eventually the Israelites will get back to the land of Canaan, which God promised them. Has there ever been something that you've prayed or hoped for for a long time and then God has answered that prayer?

12/10 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

- Saul was the first king of Israel, but he stopped following God. So who was chosen as the next king?
- David's dad's name was Jesse. Where were Jesse and David from? How might that be significant as we think about the birth of Jesus?
- David was the eighth son. Normally, if someone was chosen as king, it would have been the oldest son. Do you remember any other stories from our reading when an unexpected family member was chosen to do something special for God?

12/11 – Isaiah 7:10-17

- In verse 13, what house is Isaiah speaking to?
- When Isaiah talks about the house of David, he's talking about David's family. Since David, all the kings of Israel had come from David's family. Some were good and some were not. What actions and characteristics do you think are necessary to be a good king for God's people?
- What part of the passage specifically makes you think of Jesus' birth?

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12/12 – Isaiah 9:1-7

- Isaiah was a prophet and our readings from Isaiah are prophecies. Look up what the words prophet and prophecy mean.
- Verse 2 talks about people who were walking in darkness and have now seen a great light. What do you think Jesus does to bring light into the world?
- Read verses 6 and 7 again. Have every family member pick the part that is most meaningful to him or her and share why it's meaningful.
- Find “For Unto Us a Child is Born” from Handel’s Messiah on Youtube and watch it together.

12/13 – Isaiah 11:1-9

- When Isaiah talks about the “stump of Jesse” what day of our readings does that remind you of?
- Verse 2 talks about a lot of things that will be given to Jesus by the Spirit. What are some of those things and how do you think they helped Jesus?
- What happens in verses 6 through 8? What about Jesus might cause these odd things to happen?

12/14 – As a family, talk about how Christ offers you peace.

12/15 – Isaiah 40:1-11

- Verses 1 and 2 talk about God’s people being comforted because their sins had been forgiven. What are some things that are comforting to you?
- Verses 3 through 5 are not prophesying about Jesus. In fact, they’re referring to a person who “prepared the way” for Jesus. Do a little research together to determine who this person was and any other information you can discover.
- Verse 9 tells some of the Israelites to be messengers that say to others, “Here is your God!” How can you be a messenger that tells other people about God?

12/16 – Isaiah 53:1-9

- Isaiah said that Jesus wouldn’t be noticed because of his looks. From what you know about Jesus, what did cause people to notice him?
- Verses 4 through 9 talk about someone suffering for us and how we made mistakes, but he took the blame for us. How does this help confirm that Isaiah is talking about Jesus? And what events do you think these verses are referring to?

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12/17 – Isaiah 61:1-4

- Now read Luke 4:18-19. What do you notice?
- Why do you think Jesus would quote Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, which was written more than 400 years before Jesus was born?
- Choose one of the things Isaiah says Jesus was coming to do. Talk, as a family, about one way you can act like Jesus and do the thing you've chosen (i.e. We will bind up the brokenhearted by visiting widows in an assisted living center.).

12/18 – Isaiah 64:1-8

- In verse 1 Isaiah is desperately asking God to somehow come to the earth. God did come down to earth in the form of Jesus. That's why we call Jesus "Emmanuel", which means "God with us". What are reasons why you know that God is with you?
- Verse 4 talks about God blessing people who wait on him. Are you currently waiting for God to do something? (Think – answer a prayer request of some sort.)
- Verse 8 talks about God shaping us like clay. Give every family member a small jar of play dough and have them form a shape that represents a way God has shaped or taught them.

12/19 – Matthew 1:1-17

- Wow! That was a lot of names! What names did you recognize? Talk briefly about those names and what you learned about them earlier in Advent.
- This was the whole list of Jesus's family all the way from Abraham (remember him?) to Jesus. In Jesus' time, it was very important to know all your ancestors. As a family, make a family tree and go back as far as you can. Talk about the people on your family tree and how they have impacted your life.

12/20 – Luke 1:26-45

- How did Mary find out she was pregnant with God's child?
- What are the different things the angel said to Mary and what was Mary's reaction? What do you imagine Mary was thinking as all this went on?
- Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who she visits, was already pregnant. Do a little research to find out what child Elizabeth was pregnant with. Then go back and reread Isaiah 40:3-5 to remember what that baby later did for Jesus.

12/21 – As a family, talk about the joy that Christ gives you.

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12/22 – Luke 2:1-21

- Where was Jesus born? Do you remember who else was from there? If not, go back and reread 1 Samuel 16:1 to find out.
- Shepherds got to come to the birth of Jesus. Shepherds tended to be dirty and not respected. Like so many other times, God included people who would normally not be included in important events. Are there people who aren't normally included that you can care for and include?
- Have one family member stand up high (i.e. top of the stairs, a step ladder, etc.) and joyfully proclaim what the angel said in verses 10-14. Have everyone pretend like they're hearing it for the first time and let them see how it makes them feel.

12/23 – Matthew 2:1-12

- Who are the visitors this passage talks about?
- The Magi (or wise men) decided to follow God's leading instead of Herod's who hoped to hurt Jesus. What's an example of a time in your life when you struggled with what God wanted you to do because it was different from what someone else wanted you do?
- The Magi brought Jesus valuable gifts. Have every family member create and/or offer a gift they would like to give to Jesus. Share with one another what you've each decided to give.

12/24 – John 1:1-23

- Verse 14 says that "the Word became flesh and lived among us". This means that Jesus became human and lived on earth with us. Have everyone share one reason why it matters to him or her that Jesus came to the earth.
- John the Baptist confirmed that he was not the Messiah but that he was simply supposed to prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah. How can you use today to prepare your heart to receive the wonderful gift of Jesus?
- Pray together a prayer of praise thanking God for all that He did through all these readings to assure that Jesus, Emmanuel, would be with us.