

# JOIN THE ADVENT/URE



Throughout December, we want to help you get the most out of our brand-new resource, *Little Book of Advent*. Join the Advent/ure with your church, your family and friends, or carve out some time for yourself in the busyness of the Christmas season.

"Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

Luke 1:78-79 NLT

For centuries, the prophets foretold the Messiah's arrival, and now the wait is nearly over.



This guide offers practical tips and creative ideas for how churches and their congregations can use and interact with the *Little Book of Advent* throughout the Advent season. It provides ways to engage with the themes of waiting, hoping and preparing for the coming of Christ, helping individuals and communities reflect deeply on the meaning of Advent.

## WAYS TO EXPLORE

*Little Book of Advent* is a journey of reflection and waiting, encouraging individuals, groups, and congregations to engage with the season of Advent and what it means to wait and to look forwards to the arrival of the hope promised in the Bible.

Take yourself on an Advent journey, using *Little Book of Advent* as a companion throughout December. Make notes, pull out Bible verses; respond in any way you like, for example in writing, art, or prayer.

- \* Imagine yourself using the resource as part of your family or household's Advent traditions to inspire creative responses like journalling and storytelling, crafts, painting, or performance. Gather with friends to reflect and wait together.
- \* Consider how the narrative and themes of *Little Book of Advent* could help your community go deeper this Advent. Ask yourselves what it means to wait; how you can be expectant. Create your own questions and shape the discussion. Use the text, images, and themes to spark inspiration and creativity as you plan events, gatherings, school assemblies, youth work, and church services.

## WEEKLY THEMES AND REFLECTIONS

- \* Week 1: Waiting (pages 3-9)  
Reflect on the prophetic promises and the anticipation of Christ's coming. Invite the congregation to meditate on Isaiah 9:2 (page 9) and explore how we too wait in hope and faith.
- \* Week 2: Hoping (pages 10-19)  
Use Isaiah 9:6 (page 15) to explore the peace, wisdom, and justice that the birth of Christ brings to the world. Discuss how the hope of the Messiah shapes the world today.

\* Week 3: Preparing (pages 20-29)

Reflect on the journeys of Mary, Joseph, and the wise men as they prepared for the birth of the Saviour. Invite your church congregation to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus through prayer and contemplation.

\* Week 4: Arrival (pages 30-39)

Celebrate the joy of Christ's birth, reading the gospel passages from Luke and Matthew about Jesus' arrival in the world. The congregation can join together in prayers of thanksgiving for God's gift of salvation.

## PHASES OF THE STORY

*Little Book of Advent* takes the reader through three key phases. How do these phases lend themselves to further reflection?

### Phase 1: Promises foretold by the prophets

(pages 8-18)

What are other Old Testament promises and expectations about Jesus? How do promises from the Old Testament impact us now?

e.g. (page 10)

"In those days and at that time I will raise up a descendant from King David's line. He will do what is just and right throughout the land."

Jeremiah 33:15 NLT

### Phase 2: Jesus' birth and life

(pages 20-44)

Lots going on in this verse!  
Explore line by line?

e.g. (page 31)

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

John 1:14 NLT

### Phase 3: Promise of Jesus' return

(pages 45-53)

How can we reframe our thinking about Christmas in light of the expectation of Jesus' return?  
\* Good topic for our next small group discussion?!

e.g. (page 51)

*Jesus said,* "I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again."

John 14:27-28 NLT

# JOIN THE ADVENT/URE - IDEAS FOR USE

## INTERACTIVE CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Create opportunities for your congregation to engage actively with Advent, drawing inspiration from the *Little Book of Advent*.

- \* Light in the Darkness  
Perhaps you are already holding a candlelight or Christingle service. Consider using the *Little Book of Advent* as inspiration for or as part of your service, celebrating the light of Christ entering the world.
- \* Advent Prayer Tree  
Set up a “prayer tree” where people can write prayers or hopes inspired by the reflections and Scriptures in the book. As they hang their prayers on the tree, they participate in the collective act of waiting and hoping for Christ’s coming.
- \* Advent Candles  
Encourage individuals or families to use an Advent calendar or an Advent candle at home. Pair the daily lighting or door-opening with a reading from the *Little Book of Advent*, such as a verse from the prophecies (pages 8-18) or a reflection on the joy of Christ’s coming (pages 21-29).

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Use the *Little Book of Advent* as the basis for small group discussions or devotional meetings during the Advent season.

- \* Group Devotions  
Encourage groups or families to make time to go through the *Little Book of Advent* together. Each meeting could include a reading, a time of reflection, and shared prayers. Take turns reading the verses and passages, and sharing how the verses and themes apply to their lives.
- \* Advent Journey  
Use the 30 Bible verses in the booklet as a daily devotion, reflection, and exploration – an alternative Advent calendar. Embrace the Advent journey as the story and expectation take shape.

## CREATIVE ARTISTIC RESPONSES

Encourage artistic and creative engagement with the themes of Advent as a way to deepen reflection and participation.

- \* Advent Art Display  
Invite members of the congregation to create visual art inspired by the Scriptures and reflections in the *Little Book of Advent*. This art can be displayed in the church throughout the Advent season, symbolising the light and life that the coming of Jesus brings.
- \* Illustration Workshop  
For congregations with artists or illustrators, host a workshop where participants can create illustrations based on the verses in the book, or use it as a foundation for journalling or Advent scrapbooking.

## ADVENT PRAYERS AND LITURGIES

Incorporate the prayers and verses from the *Little Book of Advent* into church services, creating a reflective and prayerful atmosphere for the Advent season.

- \* Daily Advent Prayers  
Create a daily prayer guide based on Bible verses from the *Little Book of Advent*. Share these with your congregation or on social media (you could tag @Lifewords\_UK on Instagram), encouraging individuals to pray the daily Scripture and carry the Advent message into their daily lives.
- \* Liturgies of Waiting  
Include in your service a time of waiting and silence, where the congregation reflects on the Advent theme of waiting for Christ's coming. This could be paired with a reading from the book, such as Isaiah 42:6-7 (page 17).

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Use the Advent season as a time to serve others, inspired by the themes of *Little Book of Advent*.

- \* Acts of Kindness  
Encourage the congregation to find ways of practically showing mercy and kindness each during Advent. Take inspiration from Luke 1:78-79 (page 21) on how Jesus brings light to the world. Provide ideas for simple acts of service, such as giving to a food bank, volunteering for a local charity, or writing cards to those in need.
- \* Advent Collection for Charity  
Use Advent as a time to focus on giving back to the community. Partner with local charities, inspired by the messages of hope and peace in the *Little Book of Advent*. Consider supporting our ministry at Lifewords, or hold a fundraiser to support those in need.



This guide offers just a few ideas for how to integrate the themes and reflections of the *Little Book of Advent* into the life of your church and community. By using this book as a tool for prayer, reflection, and action, churches can deepen their experience of Advent and prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christ's birth.

## SHARE THE JOURNEY

As you explore *Little Book of Advent*, see what sparks your imagination and creativity. We would love to know your plans for *Little Book of Advent*, and to hear your stories of community and welcome this Christmas.

Get in touch at [uk@lifewords.global](mailto:uk@lifewords.global) or 020 7730 2155, or tag us on Instagram (Lifewords\_UK) or Facebook (LifewordsUK) to let us know how *Little Book of Advent* impacts you and how you're sharing it with others this season.

*Little Book of Advent* is part of the "Little Book" series. Visit [www.lifewords.global](http://www.lifewords.global) to view and order from the full range of Lifewords Bible resources.