

Your Possible Home

Building Meaningful, Enduring Family Bonds in the Age of AI



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The Advent Reading List Generator

A worksheet for parents

This is the last resource in the pack and the one that ties back most directly to what the season is actually for. Advent is the four weeks of preparation leading up to Christmas — a deliberate slowing-down of the heart before the day itself. The world around you spends those four weeks accelerating toward the twenty-fifth. Advent moves the other direction. The point of a reading practice during those weeks is to give your family something steady to come back to each evening, so the season lands in your home as something more than a countdown to a pile of gifts.

The Generator has two parts. There's a worksheet you fill out about your family — the ages of the people reading along, the time you actually have, the tradition you're working within, and the depth you're hoping for. There's an AI prompt that takes your worksheet and builds a reading list shaped to your family rather than a generic plan. After the prompt, I've included a curated starter list of well-established Advent reading resources — both broadly Christian and specifically Latter-day Saint — so you have somewhere concrete to begin if you'd rather pick from a known list than build one from scratch.

A note before you start. Advent in our family has been a Latter-day Saint observance, blended with practices we've borrowed from broader Christian traditions because they fit what we wanted to build. The resource is written from inside that tradition, but the structure works for any Christian household preparing for Christmas, and the Adapter Prompt earlier in this pack will translate it for households whose holidays look different.

The worksheet

Spend ten minutes on the questions below before you build a reading list. The honesty of your answers shapes the whole season. A reading plan that doesn't fit your family quietly fails by the second week of December.

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Field	Your answer
The ages of the people who'll be part of the reading	
The realistic time you have on a typical evening — five minutes, ten minutes, twenty minutes	
The faith tradition you're reading within	
The kind of texts you want to draw from — scripture, devotional reflections, classic Christmas stories, hymns and carols, or some mix	
Whether you want a single book to work through or a daily mix of sources	
What's worked in past years, even partially	



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What hasn't worked, and why	
What you want this year's reading practice to feel like, in two or three words	
What time of day the reading will actually happen — morning, after dinner, before bed, around the wreath	
Whether you want a candle, a song, or a prayer woven in alongside the reading	

That last question is the one most parents skip and the one that usually determines whether the practice sticks. A reading by itself can feel like a homework assignment. A reading inside a small ritual — a candle lit on the table, a verse of a carol sung together, a short prayer to open or close — gives the moment a shape that holds attention even on a hard day.

The AI prompt

Once your worksheet is filled out, copy the prompt below into your AI tool of choice. Paste in your worksheet answers, then let it run.

I'd like your help building an Advent reading list for our family — something that fits the people we are, the time we actually have, and the kind of season we want this December to be.



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Here's what you need to know:

The ages of the people reading along: [paste from your worksheet]

The realistic time we have on a typical evening: [paste from your worksheet]

Our faith tradition: [paste from your worksheet]

The kinds of texts we want to draw from: [paste from your worksheet]

Whether we want a single book to work through or a daily mix: [paste from your worksheet]

What's worked in past years: [paste from your worksheet]

What hasn't worked, and why: [paste from your worksheet]

What we want this year's reading practice to feel like: [paste from your worksheet]

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What time of day the reading will happen: [paste from your worksheet]

Whether we want a candle, a song, or a prayer woven in: [paste from your worksheet]

Based on all of that, please give me:

1. A reading plan for the four weeks of Advent through Christmas Day, sized to the time we actually have. Each day should have a short reading suggestion (scripture, devotional passage, story, or reflection) that fits our family.
2. A weekly theme that runs across the daily readings — using the traditional Advent themes (hope, peace, joy, love) or another set that fits our tradition.
3. A short ritual structure for the reading itself — what to do before, during, and after, including any candle, song, or prayer suggestions that fit what I described.
4. A few specific book recommendations or sources that fit our tradition and our family's age range, so I have somewhere to look up the readings rather than starting from scratch.
5. A note on how to handle the days when the reading can't happen — travel, illness, busy nights — so the practice doesn't collapse the first time we miss a day.

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Keep the tone warm and grounded. This is our family slowing down for the season, not a curriculum.

What to do with what comes back

You'll get a four-week reading plan, weekly themes, a ritual structure, source recommendations, and a note on missed days. Read it slowly. The plan will land in three categories — parts that fit your family beautifully, parts that need adjusting, and parts that surface something you hadn't considered. The third category is usually the most valuable.

Question	Your answer
What part of the plan am I most excited about?	
What part doesn't fit our family, and what am I replacing it with?	
Did AI surface a source or theme I hadn't thought of?	
What's the ritual structure I'm using — candle, song, prayer, or some combination?	
What's my plan for the nights we miss?	

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A curated starter list

If you'd rather pick from a known list than build one from scratch, the resources below are well-established Advent reading guides that I trust to do real work in a family. I've grouped them by tradition and noted who each one fits best.

For Latter-day Saint families

The First Presidency's annual Christmas Devotional is the closest thing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has to a unifying Advent practice. The 2025 devotional aired on December 7, 2025, and it's archived alongside every prior year going back to 2010 in the Gospel Library and at broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. Watching one as a family is a simple, free, and Christ-centered way to begin or close the season. The full archive is at

<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/event/first-presidencys-christmas-devotional-2025>. [Church Newsroom](#) [Deseret News](#)

Good Tidings of Great Joy: An Advent Celebration of the Savior's Birth by Eric D. Huntsman is the most thoughtful Latter-day Saint Advent resource I know of. It's a scriptural exposition of the biblical Infancy Narratives augmented with art, photographs of the Holy Land, sidebar reflections, music selections, and suggestions specifically designed to help Latter-day Saint families use the traditional observance of Advent to make Christmas more Christ-focused. Available through Deseret Book at <https://deseretbook.com> or wherever Latter-day Saint books are sold. Huntsman also keeps a free, well-annotated Advent and Christmas resource guide at his blog:

<http://huntsmanseasonal.blogspot.com/p/christmas-resource-guide.html>. The blog includes scripture lists, story collections, and weekly Advent observance suggestions tailored for Latter-day Saint families. [Blogger](#)

The LDS Living article *Preparing for a Christ-Centered Christmas* offers a free, accessible introduction to Advent for Latter-day Saint families who haven't observed it before. It includes a simple framework for the four Sundays and ideas for daily devotionals built around scripture, story, and song. Available at <https://www.ldsliving.com/preparing-for-a-christ-centered-christmas/s/66721>.

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For broader Christian families

The Biggest Story Advent: 25 Lift-the-Flap Devotions for Families by Kevin DeYoung (Crossway, 2025) is one of the strongest new family Advent resources of the year. It works particularly well for families with young children, with one short devotion and lift-the-flap interactive element per day from December 1 through Christmas. Available through most Christian booksellers, including Christianbook at <https://www.christianbook.com/page/advent/advent-books/advent-devotionals>.

The Advent Adventure: A Family Devotional from The Daily Grace Co. is a four-week devotional designed for families with children of all ages. It contains four weeks of daily devotionals to read together, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ending on Christmas Day, with intentionally brief but theologically rich content. Each week begins with an Advent candle lighting and memory verse, and each daily devotional includes scripture references, a read-aloud, a summary, bonus information, and discussion questions. Available at <https://thedailygraceco.com/products/the-advent-adventure-a-family-devotional>. [The Daily Grace Co.](#)

The Light Before Christmas: A Family Advent Devotional by Marty Machowski is a four-week family devotional that combines daily devotions on the theme of light and darkness with a narrative storyline about an eleven-year-old girl and her grandmother preparing for Christmas. It's well-suited to families with children in the elementary-through-middle-school range. Available through Westminster Bookstore at <https://www.wtsbooks.com/collections/advent>.

The Greatest Gift: An Advent Devotional by Ann Voskamp is for parents and older teens — a more contemplative, prose-driven daily devotional that uses a Jesse Tree structure to trace the story of redemption from Genesis to the manger. The companion *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift* offers a family-oriented version with more material for children. Both are widely available; the family version is at <https://www.christianbook.com>.

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Free online options

The Weary World Rejoices, a free ebook Advent devotional co-written by Gospel Coalition staff, is available by signup at the Gospel Coalition's Advent collection: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>.

Good News of Great Joy and *The Dawning of Indestructible Joy* by John Piper are both available as free PDF downloads from Desiring God at <https://www.desiringgod.org/>. They're written for adults but can be paraphrased for children with younger ones in the room.

The Westminster Bookstore Advent Collection at <https://www.wtsbooks.com/collections/advent> is one of the deepest curated Advent collections online, with options for every age group and tradition within Reformed and broader Christian theology.

Classic stories worth reading aloud

A reading practice doesn't have to be devotional in tone every night. Some of the most lasting Advent memories in a family come from reading aloud the classic stories of Christmas — *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens (in serial form across the season), Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* for younger nights, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson for elementary and up, and the chapter on the Long Winter Christmas in Laura Ingalls Wilder's books for families who love them. Most are available free or inexpensively at <https://www.gutenberg.org>, <https://www.bookshop.org>, or any library.

A note on what makes a reading practice actually stick

The reading practices that hold up over years aren't the most ambitious ones. They're the ones small enough to sustain on a hard night. Five minutes after dinner with a candle and a single verse of scripture is more powerful, sustained over four weeks, than a thirty-minute devotional that everyone resents by December tenth.

If you've never run an Advent reading practice before, start smaller than you think. One candle. One short scripture. One short carol. Three to five minutes total, repeated nightly. Once that rhythm is sustainable, you can build on it in future years. The goal is not to do everything in this resource. The

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goal is to do one small thing, well, every night for four weeks — and to discover that the small thing changes how the season feels.

A note for the year that doesn't go to plan

Some Advents will be harder than others. Someone is sick. A parent is traveling. A child is having a season. The reading practice you imagined doesn't actually happen, or happens half the nights, or trails off by the third week of December. That's a normal part of running a tradition with real people in a real home.

Two things matter on those Advents. The first is to not abandon the practice entirely just because you missed a few days — pick it back up the next night, without comment. The second is to not pretend the practice is perfect when it isn't. Children learn more from watching you continue something imperfectly than from watching you abandon something that fell short of how you wanted it to be.

The Advents that get remembered are not always the ones that were most consistent. They're the ones where the family kept showing up at the table, in some form, with some words, lighting some candle, remembering together what the season was actually for.

Closing thought

The point of a reading practice during Advent isn't to produce a polished family devotional that anyone outside your home would recognize. It's to slow you down, four weeks in a row, in a season that is otherwise designed to speed you up. A short scripture, a small candle, a few words spoken together — that's enough to shift the texture of the whole season.

Build the list this week. Start the practice the first Sunday of Advent. See what changes by Christmas Eve.