



Joyful
ADVENT
Anticipation



Introduction

HOPE. PEACE. JOY. LOVE.

These are the marks of the Advent season. They are the things we remember each and every year as we celebrate the season leading up to the birth of Christ.

And yet, because the busyness of our calendars, the circumstances of life, and the demands of our schedules, they are the things we so often miss out on experiencing in our lives during the holiday season.

Christ came so that we might have true and lasting hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives. And so, no matter how busy we are or how hard things may get, we don't want to miss the opportunity to pause, reflect, and remember during this Advent season.

To help focus your heart on what matters this season, we've created this four-week devotional guide to walk you through Advent. Each week focuses on one specific aspect reflected in the birth of Christ...

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

Our prayer is that as you turn your eyes, with joyful anticipation, to the coming Savior this Christmas season, your hearts will be transformed as you remember the birth of the one who came to save us.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET:

You will notice that this booklet is separated into several different sections. First, by week. For each week, you will find devotional content based on the week's theme, a family activity, questions to discuss with others, and a prayer guide.

We believe that Small Groups are the most important thing that we do at University Heights and want to encourage each group to spend time preparing their hearts together for Advent.

To do so, we have included a section of SOAP journaling pages. If you have kids, please feel free to pick up our SOAP for Kids' pages in the Worship Center foyer, Preschool Building, or on the Kids' Floor.

Use the content of these pages however you see fit—there is no specific order in which to complete your weeks, but our hope is that this Advent season is the start of a new routine for you and your family.

THE SOAP TOOL:

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

Make a basic observation about the scripture you have just read. What stood out? Was something repeated? What is the author trying to communicate? What does that teach you about God? What does it teach you about humanity?

A - APPLICATION

Ask, "What does this verse mean for my life?" How might this verse affect your heart—what you feel? How does this verse challenge your thinking? How does it affect your will, asking, "What changes do I need to make in my life as a result of this passage of Scripture?"

P - PRAYER

Write out a prayer to God. Scripture is God speaking to you, take this moment to speak back. Take a moment to say, "Thank you," or confess to Him what needs to change.



Pick up free SOAP pages just for kids in the foyer, or download and print them from home at uhbc.net/kidsSOAP.