

Confirmation Prayer Pal
Advent 2020 Discussion/Journal
God's Way

Hello Prayer Pals!

It is that time of year when we meet again to discuss the ways in which we see and experience God. I am certain you will have a lot to talk and wonder about this year, especially under the current circumstances. You may even be finding yourself wanting to ask, "Is God up to something good?" I get that and is why your conversations will be important. I hope this year's discussion will allow both of you to grieve what is no longer possible due to Covid-19 but also assist you in waiting for what is not yet, but will be. We are in what can be called a "liminal" time – the time between what was and what is to be. During a transitional time like this, you can be sure God is up to something good. Scripture tells us God is always actively bringing about goodness and life. I pray you can help each other see it.

Through your Advent Prayer Pal discussion, you will share what you miss, but also focus on what we do have and more than that, what is possible. I hope the discussion questions and Bible passages chosen for this Advent 2020 can refresh your perspective on the messages of God's Way, shown to us by Jesus.

Please choose at least three times to get together in December, either safely in person or via Facetime or Zoom. Before meeting you will need a Bible, paper and pencils or markers, and a bowl with a few Christmas tree balls and four candles (could be votive candles).

The Advent discussion journal has three components for you to follow: a time of gathering/prayer, reading scripture with questions and an opportunity to act on what you learn. After each meeting, please sign and date the page. You will turn your journal into me by January 6, 2021.

I look forward to hearing at my monthly check-in with students, how things go.

Peace,
Pastor Leesa

First Week of Advent
November 29-December 5, 2020

Some things that will help:
A Bible, candles, a bowl, Christmas balls, paper, and pencils or markers.

Gather & Pray:

Light a candle and say this prayer: **Hi God. You are here; We are here. Amen.**

Place a bowl where both of you can see it; each of you takes paper and pencil or marker.

Taking turns name things you have for which you are grateful (a warm place to live, a pet, etc.)

Write or draw what you name, maybe decorating the paper. Place the papers in the bowl, add a few Christmas balls to celebrate your gratitude.

Bible Reading & Discuss:

Read Mark 13:24-37

This passage tells us we are now in Advent. People were sure Jesus was coming back, to make things better, they just had no clue when. They were advised: "Keep watch! Stay awake!"

People were surprised at the way he came the first time, not as a superhero, but as a baby.

Talk

- How might his "coming" again be a surprise? What do you imagine it looks like?
- What signs do we see that God's Way is already being attempted? By others? By us?
- What might the world look like if people everywhere were choosing to do things God's Way?

Actionable Worship:

This Advent, we can begin looking for signs of people in our family doing things God's Way (helping with hard homework, staying in touch with lonely people, etc.)

Share

This week, how have you already caught people doing things God's Way (in your family and others)?

Closing Prayer:

Thank you, God, for helping us see how to do things your way. Amen.

Youth Signature

Adult Signature

Second Week of Advent
December 6-12, 2020

Some things that will help:

A Bible, candles, a bowl, Christmas balls, paper, and pencils or markers.

Gather & Pray:

Light two candles and say this prayer: **Hi God. You are here; We are here. Amen.**

Place a bowl where both of you can see it; each of you takes paper and pencil or marker.

Taking turns, name what things you have “caught” others doing that are God’s Way? **Write or draw what you name**, maybe decorating the paper. Place the papers in the bowl, add a few Christmas balls to celebrate your gratitude.

Bible Reading & Discuss:

Read Mark 1:1-8

Life was hard and people were pretty discouraged. John the Baptist knew something amazing and was telling people: Someone, not something, was coming! This someone would show us God’s Way.

Talk

- If someone asked you to explain the message of John the Baptist, what would you say?
- Who do you know that is like John the Baptist, pointing the way to see Jesus? What do they do to point to him?
- What are some things you have learned about Jesus through these people? Give an example of how they made that known to you.

Actionable Worship:

Advent, in a pandemic, brings extra stress for everyone – especially those who help others during this time. Make a card with an affirmation on it to give to the mail carrier, shelf stocker, etc. Make a surprise, anonymous delivery.

Share

This week, how have you caught people doing things God’s Way (in your family and others)?

Closing Prayer:

Thank you, God, for helping us see how to do things your way. Amen.

Youth Signature

Adult Signature

Third Week of Advent
December 13-19, 2020

Some things that will help:
A Bible, candles, a bowl, Christmas balls, paper, and pencils or markers.

Gather & Pray:

Light three candles and say this prayer: **Hi God. You are here; We are here. Amen.**
Place a bowl where both of you can see it; each of you takes paper and pencil or marker.
Taking turns naming the best and hardest thing you noticed this past week. **Write or draw what you name**, maybe decorating the paper. Place the papers in the bowl, add a few Christmas balls to celebrate your gratitude.

Bible Reading & Discuss:

Read John 1:6-8, 19-28

Many people had a difficult time understanding John's message. John the Baptist kept saying: It's not about me! My job is to point to the one who will show us God's Way.

Talk

- Why do you think people had difficulty understanding John's message?
- Why do you think people think that important messages can only come from important people?
- Who are some people who have a hard time getting attention but have good ideas?
- If someone asked you to explain what is God's Way? What would you say?

Actionable Worship:

What is one thing we can do for someone who is alone? Do you know someone who is alone and needs you to act?

Share

This week, how have you caught people doing things God's Way (in your family and others)?

Closing Prayer:

Thank you, God, for helping us see how to do things your way. Amen.

Youth Signature

Adult Signature

Fourth Week of Advent
December 20-24, 2020

Some things that will help:
A Bible, candles, a bowl, Christmas balls, paper, and pencils or markers.

Gather & Pray:

Light four candles and say this prayer: **Hi God. You are here; We are here. Amen.**

Place a bowl where both of you can see it; each of you takes paper and pencil or marker.

Taking turns name one thing you are sad won't happen this Christmas and one thing you are glad will happen differently. **Write or draw what you name**, maybe decorating the paper. Place the papers in the bowl, add a few Christmas balls to celebrate your gratitude.

Bible Reading & Discuss:

Read Luke 1:26-38

An angel showed up for Mary saying right away, "Don't be scared, God has your back!"

Talk

- Why do you think Mary was afraid?
- Share a time you were scared and then realized you were safe.

Actionable Worship:

Do you know someone who is currently scared? Can you share why? How might you offer support and safety?

Share

This week, how have you caught people doing things God's Way (in your family and others)?

Closing Prayer:

Thank you, God, for helping us see how to do things your way. Amen.

Youth Signature

Adult Signature