

#### MAIN POINT:

**Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love** Advent is a time to remember and celebrate the arrival of Jesus. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, four themes are reflected on. The *hope* of God’s promises, faithfulness and His plan for our lives helps us in difficult times and is a good focal point for praising God. God’s *peace* brings three kinds of peace to our lives. Spiritual peace is found when we place our faith in Jesus. Relational peace comes when we accepted Jesus as our Salvation. He made it possible to have a relationship with God and works in us to have peace with others. Inner peace from Jesus frees us from anxiety and worry during trying times. *Joy* comes from God. It is found in the scriptures and is a Fruit of the Spirit. It is a result of us following God’s ways and is not dependent upon our circumstances. Joy is also our response of thankfulness to God for the ways He works in our lives. The last theme-*love*- is God’s love. It is unconditional, unselfish and is given to us freely. Being merciful, sacrificing and obedient as evidences of love.

#### FAMILY DISCUSSION:

1. **What questions did you have during the Advent series? What was confusing? What was something that surprised you/something new you learned?** (Listen and respond.)
2. **When you think about what we learned through the themes of hope, joy, peace, and love – which theme made the biggest impact on you? Which one changed your thinking or actions? Why?**
3. **When you think of the themes of hope, joy, peace, and love – what changes did you make in your attitudes, words, thinking, or how you live your life at school, with your friends, or at home?**
  - a. **Where did you see hope help you get through a tough situation?**
  - b. **Where did you feel peace in your life when things were scary, unknown, or uncertain?**
  - c. **What negative attitudes did you replace with joy?**
  - d. **Where have you shown love to others/people around you by sacrificing for them, extending forgiveness to them?**
4. **What is one thing that God said to you during the Advent series? What are you going to do about it?**

## **FAMILY PRAYER:**

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Ask your child how you can pray for them.

- What is their biggest concern this week?
- Where do they see God working in their life?

Pray with and for your child.

- Pray that the Lord will give your children the full knowledge and understanding of hope, peace, love and joy.
- Pray this scripture over them: (Your child's name) may you find joy in the truth that God loves you so much. He loved you enough to give you the free gift of His Son Jesus. May you have peace in your life and hope in your heart as you celebrate the amazing truths of Christmas.