

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

FAMILY READING GUIDE ADVENT 2025

Behold my servant whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.
Isaiah 42:1

SONGS OF
WONDER

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THIS GUIDE
BELONGS TO:

WELCOME!

We're so glad you're joining us this Advent season! At Faith Community Church, we believe that faith is meant to be lived out and talked about in our homes—not just on Sundays. That's why we've created this Family Reading Guide to go along with our Advent sermon series, Songs of Wonder. Each Sunday in worship, we'll explore one of the Servant Songs from the book of Isaiah, discovering together the beauty, humility, and hope of God's promised Servant—Jesus Christ. During the week, these family readings will help you continue the conversation at home as you read about Jesus' birth and ministry in the Gospel of Luke.

Our hope is that this simple guide will help you slow down and learn to gather as a family around God's word. Advent is a season of waiting and expectation. It's also a special opportunity to make memories centered on Christ. Whether you have little ones or teenagers—or you're reading with friends or grandchildren—our prayer is that these short readings, questions, and prayers will spark meaningful conversation and remind your family of God's faithfulness and love.



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SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THIS GUIDE

1. SET A SIMPLE RHYTHM

Choose a time that works best for your family—maybe after dinner, before bedtime, or right after breakfast. Consistency is more important than perfection. We will all miss days for a variety of reasons. Don't worry about "making them up." Just pick up with that day's reading.

2. KEEP IT SHORT AND JOYFUL

Aim for 10–15 minutes together. Read the passage, ask a couple of questions, share thoughts, and pray. If little ones get wiggly, that's okay! Keep the tone light and engaging.

3. LET EVERYONE PARTICIPATE

Invite different family members to read the Scripture aloud, ask the questions, or lead in prayer. Even young children can hold the Bible or say, "Amen!"

4. CONNECT SUNDAYS TO THE WEEK

Each week's readings connect to the Servant Song we're studying in worship. Many of your younger children will be in Faith Kids during the Sunday Sermon, but your teenagers will be in the worship gathering with you. Take a moment to connect the teaching from Isaiah with the reading in Luke.

5. WONDER TOGETHER

Advent is full of awe and anticipation. Use this time not to lecture but to explore. Ask, "What do you think this shows us about Jesus?" or "What part of this story do you love most?"

6. PRAY SIMPLY

End with a short prayer thanking God for Jesus and asking Him to help your family trust and follow Him.

7. MAKE IT SPECIAL

Light an Advent candle, sing a favorite carol, start an Advent calendar together, or draw a picture that reminds you of the story. Small traditions make big memories.



A NOTE ON THE SERVANT SONGS OF ISAIAH

The prophet Isaiah lived in Jerusalem about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. It seems that he was a priest who was sent by God during a time of crisis for God's people. He called Israel to trust in the Lord rather than in political alliances or idols, warning them of disaster if things did not change. Isaiah's book is filled with both warnings of judgment and breathtaking promises of hope. Among his most beautiful writings are the Servant Songs (Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12). These poems introduce us to the "Servant of the LORD" – a figure that Isaiah promised would bring justice, healing, and salvation – not through power and force, but through humility, obedience and suffering. Christians have long recognized that Isaiah's Servant points us to Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah.

The prophets are among the most difficult literature in the Bible to understand. They are filled with references to people and places that we have no context for today. To help you get started, the Bible Project has created an excellent introduction to Isaiah. For younger kids, this introduction may be too far over their heads, but for older teenagers it may be helpful.

Isaiah 1-39



Isaiah 40-66



A NOTE ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

The Gospel of Luke is one of four accounts of the life of Jesus in the New Testament. Written by Luke, a physician and careful historian, it presents Jesus as the Savior of all people. Luke was a companion of the Apostle Paul, and he tells us at the start of his Gospel that he carefully investigated everything from the beginning so that his readers could have certainty about what they believe (Luke 1:1–4). His Gospel is rich with detail, compassion, and an emphasis on prayer, the Holy Spirit, and God’s heart for outsiders, the poor, and the broken. It’s also our best source for reading about the Christmas story.

During Advent, as we read through Luke, we’ll see how Jesus fulfills the promises spoken in Isaiah’s Servant Songs, bringing light and salvation into the world.

TIPS FOR READING THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

1. **Read Slowly and Thoughtfully:** Luke gives details (names, places, emotions) that help you picture the scene. Let your imagination engage with the story.
2. **Notice the People:** Watch how Jesus welcomes the poor, women, children, and outsiders. Luke shows us the wide embrace of God’s kingdom.
3. **Pay Attention to Prayer and the Spirit:** Luke highlights moments of prayer and the Spirit’s work. Ask what this reveals about Jesus’ relationship with the Father.
4. **Look for Fulfillment:** Keep Isaiah’s Servant Songs in mind. How does Jesus embody the Servant as he heals, teaches, and ultimately suffers and triumphs?
5. **Make it Personal:** Each story invites a response. What is God showing me here? Where am I being called to trust, obey, rejoice, or repent?

WEEK 1

WONDER FOR THE HURTING

Behold my servant, whom I
uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul
delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to
the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up
his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not
break,
and a faintly burning wick he
will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth
justice.
He will not grow faint or be
discouraged
till he has established justice in
the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his
law.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and
what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people
on it
and spirit to those who walk in
it:

"I am the Lord; I have called
you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and
keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for
the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from
the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in
darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
Behold, the former things have
come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

Isaiah 42:1-9



WEEK 1

DAILY READING

For each reading this week, consider asking:

1. What does this story show us about Jesus' heart for the hurting and weak?
2. How would you feel if you were in the story?
3. What do you love most about Jesus in this story?

Monday | The Shepherds: Luke 2:8-20

Tuesday | A Leper: Luke 5:12-16

Wednesday | The Beatitudes: Luke 6:17-26

Thursday | A Sinful Woman Forgiven: Luke 7:36-50

Friday | The Demoniac: Luke 8:26-33

Saturday | A Hurting Woman and a Little Girl: Luke 8:40-56



WEEK 2

WONDER FOR THE WEARY



Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you
peoples from afar.

The Lord called me from the
womb,
from the body of my mother he
named my name.

He made my mouth like a
sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he
hid me;

he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my
servant,

Israel, in whom I will be
glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in
vain;

I have spent my strength for
nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with
the Lord,
and my recompense with my
God."

And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from the
womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be
gathered to him—

for I am honored in the eyes of
the Lord,
and my God has become my
strength—

he says:

"It is too light a thing that you
should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the
preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the
nations,
that my salvation may reach to
the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his
Holy One,

to one deeply despised,
abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:
"Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall
prostrate themselves;
because of the Lord, who is
faithful,

the Holy One of Israel, who has
chosen you."

Isaiah 49:1-7

WEEK 2

DAILY READING

For each reading this week, consider asking:

1. Why do you think the person in this story might be weary or afraid?
2. If you were in this story, do you think it would be easy or hard to believe God? Why?
3. What does this show us about what Jesus is like?

Monday | Zechariah: Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday | Mary: Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday | Mary's Song: Luke 1:39-56

Thursday | Elizabeth: Luke 1:57-66

Friday | Zechariah's Song: Luke 1:67-80

Saturday | Jesus: Luke 2:1-7



WEEK 3

WONDER IN THE DARKNESS



The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are
taught,
that I may know how to sustain
with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he
awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are
taught.

The Lord God has opened my
ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
I gave my back to those who
strike,
and my cheeks to those who
pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been
disgraced;
therefore I have set my face
like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be
put to shame.
He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear
out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Who among you fears the Lord
and obeys the voice of his
servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the Lord
and rely on his God.
Behold, all you who kindle a
fire,
who equip yourselves with
burning torches!
Walk by the light of your fire,
and by the torches that you
have kindled!
This you have from my hand:
you shall lie down in torment.

Isaiah 50:4-11

WEEK 3

DAILY READING

Note: Each story this week features an “outsider” – someone that was culturally, ethnically or religiously different from others.

For each reading this week, consider asking:

1. Who needed help in this story and what did Jesus do?
2. What does this story show us about who Jesus is?
3. How can we trust Jesus when we're feeling far from God?

Monday | The Centurion: Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday | The Widow of Nain: Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday | The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

Thursday | The Prodigal: Luke 15:11-32

Friday | The Samaritan Leper: Luke 17:11-19

Saturday | Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10



WEEK 4

BEHOLD MY SERVANT!



Behold, my servant shall act
wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

As many were astonished at
you—

his appearance was so
marred, beyond human
semblance,

and his form beyond that of
the children of mankind—
so shall he sprinkle many
nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths
because of him,
for that which has not been
told them they see,
and that which they have not
heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has
heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of
the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like
a young plant,
and like a root out of dry
ground;

he had no form or majesty that
we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should
desire him.

He was despised and
rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and
acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men
hide their faces
he was despised, and we
esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our
transgressions;
he was crushed for our
iniquities;
upon him was the
chastisement that brought us
peace,
and with his wounds we are
healed.

All we like sheep have gone
astray;
we have turned—every one—to
his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was
afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
By oppression and judgment
he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who
considered
that he was cut off out of the
land of the living,
stricken for the transgression
of my people?
And they made his grave with
the wicked
and with a rich man in his
death,
although he had done no
violence,
and there was no deceit in his
mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to
crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an
offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he
shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall
prosper in his hand.
Out of the anguish of his soul
he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the
righteous one, my servant,

make many to be accounted
righteous,
and he shall bear their
iniquities.
Therefore I will divide him a
portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil
with the strong,
because he poured out his soul
to death
and was numbered with the
transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the
transgressors.

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

WEEK 4

DAILY READING

For each reading this week, consider asking:

1. What do we learn about Jesus' courage and love?
2. How would you feel if you were in this story?
3. What do you love most about Jesus?

Monday | Betrayal: Luke 22:39-53

Tuesday | Death and Burial: Luke 23:44-56

Wednesday (Christmas Eve) | Resurrection: Luke 24:1-12

Thursday (Christmas Day) | The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

Friday | Peace to You!: Luke 24:36-53

Saturday | To the Ends of the Earth: Acts 1:6-11



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.**

NOTES



A series of 20 horizontal lines for writing notes, arranged in a single column.





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