

Imago Dei Family Worship Devotional Guide



ADVENT 2022

Songs and Their Stories

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SING: Why and How

“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.” Psalm 95:1-3

Singing is for everyone! Why should we sing to the Lord? We sing because Jesus is worthy of our praise!

Teaching our children songs that are rich in the truth and beauty of the Lord is something they can hold onto throughout their lives.

We created this family worship guide to serve as a resource for you this Advent season. We hope you find it helpful and encouraging.

Here are some suggestions on how to incorporate singing into your family’s daily life.

Play and sing songs in your regular rhythms of family life: over breakfast, trips in the car, before bedtime, etc.

Follow the [Imago Dei Worship Blog](#) to practice songs together the week leading up to Sunday worship gathering.

To practice a new song, sing along using just a short word sound like “na” or “la”; It will be a fun way to warm up everyone's voices and learn the melody.

Focus on one section of the song at a time. This will be particularly helpful in learning the song, *Messiah King*, ahead of singing it together in our December worship gathering.

Invest in a resource like, *Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories*, by Robert J. Morgan to help teach songs and their stories.

Tips on how to use this family worship devotional guide.

Daily

Choose one week during Advent to read through each daily devotion together. Set aside a particular time each day for consistency.

For example:

- Monday – *Story*
- Tuesday – *Advent*
- Wednesday – *Hope*
- Thursday – *Peace*
- Friday – *Joy*
- Saturday – *Adore*.

**We recommend either the week of November 27th – December 3rd OR December 4th – 10th. We will sing Messiah King together as a church on December 11th.*

Weekly

Read through one devotion together on a specific day of the week for four weeks. Sing the recommended song throughout the week on the day of or a day that follows each of the designated Sunday mornings. The four Sundays of Advent are:

HOPE (1st Sunday of Advent, 11/27/2022)

Choose one day the week before to read and sing together

PEACE (2nd Sunday of Advent, 12/4/2022)

Choose one day the week before to read and sing together

JOY (3rd Sunday of Advent, 12/11/2022)

Choose one day the week before to read and sing together

ADORE (4th Sunday of Advent, 12/18/2022)

Choose one day the week before to read and sing together

****Note:** There are two additional devotions before the weekly Advent begins (Story and Advent). Consider reading the week before Advent.*

ENJOY!

STORY: Messiah King

“Your statutes have been my song in the land of my sojourning.” Psalm 119:54

Did you know that the Psalms were the songbook of God’s people? In the Psalms we find poems, prayers, and songs that tell of Israel’s history and the covenant promises of God. The Psalms are actually divided into five books. Each book ends with a doxology, a word that means, “song of praise.” God’s people are people who sing and have much to sing about!

Writing poetry, prayers, and songs are ways to both remember and share the story of God who is redeeming a people for himself. Songwriting is a process of taking the Word of God and putting it to music so you can take it with you. We call this, “portable theology.” At Imago Dei, we are often reminded that we should preach the gospel to ourselves every day. Singing songs that tell the story of the saving power of Jesus Christ is one way to remind ourselves of this good news and share it with others!

Have you ever tried to write a song before? One day, Amber Bowen and Kimberly Merida began praying, studying, and working on trying to write a song that would help tell the story of Jesus. A few days later, *Messiah King* was written. This song tells of the promised Messiah coming to bring salvation to those

who believe. One day Jesus will come again to wipe away all of our tears and make all sad things come untrue. This is wonderful news! Jesus is worthy of our praise!

Discussion: Is there a song that you like to sing about God? What is one thing that song teaches you about Jesus?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of poetry and songs. Thank you most of all for sending your Son, Jesus. Help us to learn more about you through these songs. In Jesus's name, Amen.*

Messiah King

Written by Amber Bowen and Kimberly Merida

*Son of David, Bright and Morning Star
Prince of Peace, the Long-awaited One
God eternal, like us you became
Manger for a throne, humbly you laid*

Hosanna! God be praised!

*Weary souls rejoice
Heavy laden come find rest
With creation sing,
All hail! Messiah King!
By his victory the curse is in retreat
And death has lost its sting
All hail! Messiah King!*

*Heaven opened, light shines through the dark
Dwelt among us, the weak, the lame, the lost
Suffering Servant, to you our burdens bring
Body broken, Risen Lord, you reign!*

Hosanna! God be praised!

*Weary souls rejoice
Heavy laden come find rest
With creation sing,
All hail! Messiah King!
By his victory the curse is in retreat
And death has lost its sting
All hail! Messiah King!*

*We pray, Lord Jesus, come.
We pray, Lord Jesus, come.
We need you, Jesus, come.
We need you, Jesus, come.*

*Weary souls rejoice
Heavy laden come find rest
With creation sing,
All hail! Messiah King!
By his victory the curse is in retreat
And death has lost its sting
All hail! Messiah King!*

ADVENT: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.”
Psalm 46:10-11*

Do you know what the word *Advent* means? Advent simply means, “coming.” Advent involves waiting with anticipation or to be on the lookout for something.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus was written to tell the meaning and purpose of the Advent season. First, we remember the birth of Christ. Second, we long for Jesus to come again.

Take a moment to read the song lyrics together on the next page. What are some things Jesus came to do?

Did you notice that this song is one big prayer? Prayer is talking to God. We can tell God what makes us sad or worried. We can ask for God’s help to stop doing what we should not be doing. We can tell God how wonderful he is! Our God comforts his children. When we sing, “Let us find our rest in thee,” we are asking God to help us trust him and know that he is with us wherever we go.

Discussion: What is something you look forward to?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior. Help us to remember what Jesus has done for us and be on the lookout for his return! Amen.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

(Written by Charles Wesley)

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

HOPE: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Have you ever played hide and seek in the dark? Imagine if you had found such a good hiding place that no one could find you. Too much time alone in the darkness would probably start to feel a little scary. You would eventually get tired of being alone in the dark. After a while, you would be so ready for someone to turn the lights on in order that you may be found! Then, imagine the joy of being reunited with your family member or friend!

Darkness is a picture of being separated from God. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is a song of longing for God’s light to break through the darkness, rescue us from our sin, and reunite us with himself. That is what God did! Emmanuel means, “God with us.” God sent his Son, Jesus, to dwell with us, die for us, and defeat our greatest enemies - sin and death!

Discussion: Knowing that God came to dwell with us, what do we learn about who God is? How should I now live?

Prayer: *Father, thank you for sending Jesus. Jesus, you came to the earth as a little baby who was fully God and fully man. Thank you for coming to die on the cross for us! Amen.*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Written/Translated by J.M. Neale

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

PEACE: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1

Have you ever heard a really big choir sing? One of my favorite times in our Imago Dei worship gatherings is when the musical instruments stop playing and all you can hear is the sound of voices filling up the room.

Can you imagine what it would be like to see the sky suddenly fill up with a choir of angels singing loudly with their heavenly voices? It would be an incredible sight and probably a little frightening! Guess what? This really happened!

Let’s take a moment to read the story of what happened in Luke 2:8-14. What were the angels singing?

Hark the Herald Angels Sing begins with this great birth announcement. The good news is that the Prince of Peace has come to reconcile us to God. Charles Wesley, who wrote this song and a whole lot of other songs, wanted to show that when we sing Christmas carols and other worship songs together, we are joining in with the angels to tell everyone how wonderful Jesus is!

Discussion: Why is peace with God so wonderful?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, what an incredible experience that must have been to see a choir of angels singing the good news that our Savior has come to bring us back to God. Help us believe in Jesus and tell others about him. In his name, Amen.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Written by Charles Wesley; Altered by George Whitefield

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.*

[Refrain]

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.*

[Refrain]

*Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head
Adam's likeness now efface,
Shine Thine image in its place
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love*

[Refrain]

JOY: Joy to the World

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!”*

Psalm 98:4

Did you know that *Joy to the World* was not originally written for Christmas? Isaac Watts wrote this song as a way to paraphrase the last five verses of Psalm 98.

Let’s take a moment to read Psalm 98:1-9. This Psalm speaks of the coming of Christ! So it makes sense that this joyous song is a favorite Christmas hymn. What does joy mean? Joy is a feeling of deep pleasure and happiness that is not based on what is going on around us but on who Jesus is.

The time in history in which we live is what we often call, “already, not yet.” Do you know what that means? Jesus has *already* come to bring salvation to those who believe and receive him by faith. The invitation has gone out. The work of salvation is finished.

Jesus has *not yet* come again to make all things new. But that day is coming! Jesus promises that he will return to restore us to himself and make all things new! The curse will be gone forever, and sad things will come untrue. Have you received this gift of joy? Are you ready?

Question: What is your favorite Christmas song? What are some things that make you happy or bring you joy?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, help me to use my voice, my words, and my song to joyfully honor you. In Jesus's name, Amen.*

Joy to the World

Written by Isaac Watts

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
Let Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

ADORE: O Come All Ye Faithful

*"Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker." Psalm 95:6*

If you were to name three things you love, what would they be? Which one would be number one? Why?

The word *adore* means to really love something or someone. If you really love someone, wouldn't you want to spend time with them? Wouldn't you be excited to tell others about them?

We worship what we love. When we worship, we are saying something is worthy of honor and devotion. We worship what holds our mind's attention and our heart's affection.

O Come All Ye Faithful was written as an invitation to worship Christ the Lord. It was written with a sense of urgency to sing praise to the only One who is worthy of worship, Jesus. This song invites us to sing with the angels, sing with our families, sing with our fellow believers, and to worship Christ with all that we have!

Let's be a people who sing this all year:

O come, let us adore him

We'll praise his name forever

We'll give him all the glory

For he alone is worthy

Question: What is something that you adore or really love?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, help me to love you most of all - more than anything else. In Jesus's name, Amen.*

O Come All Ye Faithful

*Written by John Francis Wade;
Translated by Frederick Oakeley*

*O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;*

Refrain:

***O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.***

*True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, He shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, (be)gotten not created;*

[Refrain]

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;*

[Refrain]

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:*

Refrain

Listening Resources:

Messiah King

<https://open.spotify.com/track/7qIHVLV0TYakJGPHx5cGjW?si=922c7204e0f544a9>

<https://youtu.be/NT06E22k9T8>

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=rDLaCON-coU&feature=share>

https://youtu.be/1Zcyxr_qW6w

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

<https://youtu.be/zZ--HwWc4Ms>

<https://youtu.be/MtOi0IP0DCo>

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

<https://youtu.be/9WajURZEBWE>

<https://youtu.be/3P97yj-f4sc>

Joy to the World

<https://youtu.be/TrUHDKNNTFg>

<https://youtu.be/3Fb-xTDfxYs>

O Come All Ye Faithful

<https://youtu.be/7Pu5aOCHfkQ>

<https://youtu.be/k7EU7EvhYGc>

En español: https://youtu.be/eSXR_vUk0dQ