



CELEBRATING



Advent



POETRY TEA TIME



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Welcome



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

With the arrival of blustery winds and busying schedules, the joy of the advent can easily be dulled by the demands of the holiday season. However, this guide was designed to be used to help you ponder the beauty of the season, connect with the Scriptures in a holistic way, and be inspired by gorgeous art and heartfelt poetry. Ideally with steaming mugs of delicious drinks and a special treat or two! Below are a few tips on how you can use this guide in your own family!



Each week, your family will learn a new memory verse, a classic hymn, read an advent themed poem, and appreciate a fine art painting. There is also a list of Christmas-themed activities to enjoy as a family, as well as a nature walk scavenger hunt to bring with you on windy winter walks.



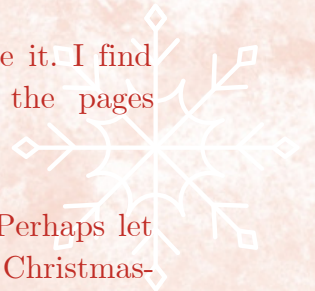
You can chose to use this guide as is, or go deeper by doing a composer study with the hymns, an artist's study with the paintings, a writer's study with the poems, or pairing this guide with a Bible or advent reading plan.



Print off a copy of the guide for each person you intend to use it. I find purchasing restaurant style menus off Amazon helps keep the pages protected and more durable for the little hands in our home.



Pick a time each day to gather your people and set the mood. Perhaps let them indulge in hot chocolate or a fresh baked good, light a Christmas-scented candle, or stream Joel Clarkson's Mid-Winter Carols to create a special environment. The goal is to create a time of Christ-centered connection in your home, not necessarily checking off all the boxes, so take time to savor the strokes of the painting or the cadence of the poetry, if it speaks to you.





THIS WEEK'S HYMN

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth





THIS WEEK'S HYMN

Joy to the World

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,
And 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.

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.

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!





THIS WEEK'S HYMN
Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head

The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there





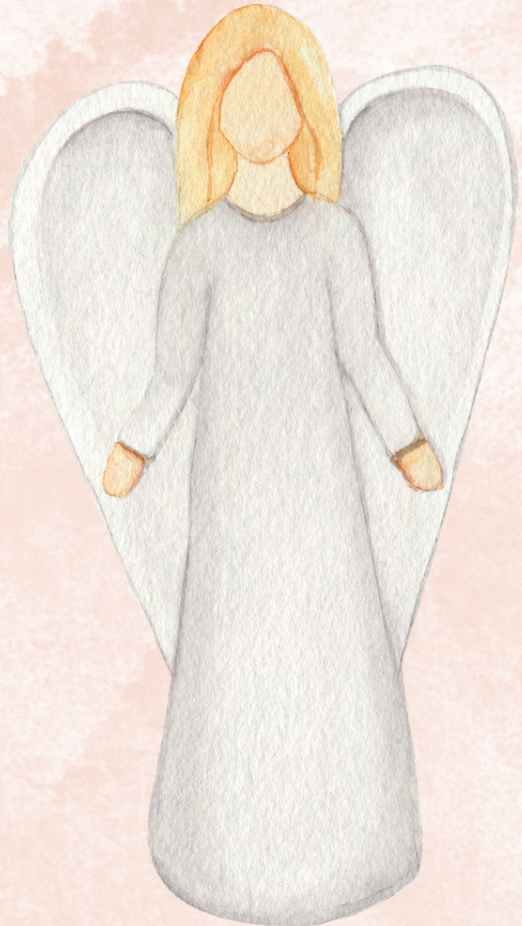
THIS WEEK'S HYMN

O Holy Night

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim





THIS WEEK'S
memory
VERSE



For God *so loved the world*, that he gave his
only Son, that *whoever believes* in him should
not perish but have *eternal life*.

John 3:16





THIS WEEK'S
memory
VERSE



Glory to *God in the highest*, and on
earth peace, *good will* toward men.

Luke 2:14





THIS WEEK'S
memory
VERSE



The *true light* that gives light to
everyone was coming *into the world*.

John 1:9





THIS WEEK'S
memory
VERSE



The *true light* that gives light to
everyone was coming *into the world*.

John 1:9





Poem



IN MEMORIAM A. H. H. OBIT MDCCLXXXIII: 106
BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.


Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful
rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.





Poem



CHRISTMAS CAROL BY SARA TEASDALE

The kings they came from out the south,
All dressed in ermine fine;
They bore Him gold and chrysoprase,
And gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,
Their coats were brown and old;
They brought Him little new-born lambs—
They had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,
And they were wrapped in white;
The star that led them all the way
Did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,
And they were clad with wings;
And lo, they brought a joyful song
The host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,
The wise men entered in,
The shepherds followed after them
To hear the song begin.

The angels sang through all the night
Until the rising sun,
But little Jesus fell asleep
Before the song was done.





Poem



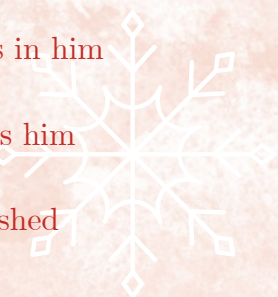
AT CHRISTMAS BY EDGAR GUEST

A man is at his finest
towards the finish of the year;
He is almost what he should be
when the Christmas season is here;
Then he's thinking more of others
than he's thought the months before,
And the laughter of his children
is a joy worth toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than
at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him
he comes close to the sublime.

When it's Christmas man is bigger
and is better in his part;
He is keener for the service
that is prompted by the heart.
All the petty thoughts and narrow
seem to vanish for awhile
And the true reward he's seeking
is the glory of a smile.
Then for others he is toiling and
somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas he is almost
what God wanted him to be.

If I had to paint a picture of a man
I think I'd wait
Till he'd fought his selfish battles
and had put aside his hate.
I'd not catch him at his labors
when his thoughts are all of self,
On the long days and the dreary
when he's striving for himself.
I'd not take him when he's sneering,
when he's scornful or depressed,
But I'd look for him at Christmas
when he's shining at his best.

Man is ever in a struggle
and he's oft misunderstood;
There are days the worst that's in him
is the master of the good,
But at Christmas kindness rules him
and he puts himself aside
And his petty hates are vanquished
and his heart is opened wide.
Oh, I don't know how to say it,
but somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas man is almost
what God sent him here to be.




o






Poem


CHRISTMAS EVE
BY CHRISTINA ROSSETTI



Christmas has a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas has a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas has a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.



Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven has answering music
For all angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.



The Annunciation

BY HENRY
OSSAWA TANNER



Read Luke 1:26-38 while looking at the painting.

The Nativity

BY FEDERICO
BARROCCI



Read Luke 2:4-7 while looking at the painting.

The Adoration of the Shepherds

BY GUIDO RENI



Read Luke 2:8-20 while looking at the painting.

Adoration of the Magi

BY DOMINGOS SEQUEIRA



Read Matthew 2:1-12 while looking at the painting.



Christmas



BUCKET LIST

- Have a Christmas Tree decorating party
- Make a Christmas song playlist
- Have a Whoville feast and watch *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- Make Christmas cards for friends and relatives
- Have a Christmas carol concert in the living room
- Have a family sleepover while watching Christmas movies
- Visit a Christmas tree farm
- Celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas
- Visit a Christmas market
- Make a traditional Christmas pudding
- Wrap and decorate presents
- Dress in Christmas pajamas, drink hot cocoa and drive to see Christmas lights
- Make Christmas cookies
- Donate toys and go Christmas shopping for charity
- Make mulled cider
- Make homemade ornaments
- Watch a performance of *Handel's Messiah*
- Make a gingerbread house
- See a Christmas parade or attend a Christmas festival
- Watch *The Nutcracker Ballet*
- Make a Christmas craft



Nature Walk

CAN YOU FIND...

