

## How to Plan and Introduce Advent Ceremonies in Your Church Services

### Advent Wreath:

Prepare an Advent wreath consisting of a large center candle surrounded by 4 slender candles. There is a picture on the front of the Advent Study Guide if you need an idea of how it could look. The candles can be any color. Candle sets used in some church traditions can be purchased containing 3 violet candles and 1 pink candle for the wreath and a larger white candle for the middle.

### Advent Key Verse:

Have the Advent Key Verse – John 8:12 - Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." (*printed in your bulletin or on an overhead screen*)

### Advent Readers:

Ask 5 families from your congregation to participate as candle lighters and readers, one family for each Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Give each family a copy of the reading for the Sunday they will lead the Advent ceremony.

## Announcement to Introduce the Advent Season and Study Materials

Sunday, November 29, 2009

*As we prepare for Christmas, we often repeat the slogan that says "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," and we probably read the Christmas story through with our family either on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas Day, but we know we should be doing more to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. We would really like to get away from all the commercialism of the culture around us, but we just don't know where to begin.*

*We have a tool for you to use this year that will help you as a family spend time together around the Christmas Story as it is told in the Bible.*

**Option 1: If you are making printed books available for your congregation, show a copy of the Family Inductive Bible Study Guide for Advent 2009.**

**Option 2: If you are asking people to download their own copy from the Internet, show a *printed copy* and tell them how to make their own. Put the web site information in your bulletin and make a flyer with the information in this announcement. (Flyer sample available)**

*There are many wonderful stories available for us to read to our children or grandchildren that tell about people doing special things for each other at this time of the year, but the most wonderful story of all is the story of the birth of Christ.*

*Christmas is a time for traditions and you cannot establish a better tradition with your family, whether you have children or not, than to spend time around the 'light of the world,' Jesus, as is portrayed by the Advent candles.*

**Introduce your first family to light the first candle and read the first Advent Reading.**