



Faith Formation Through *Advent Calendars*



While kids and adults alike love chocolate Advent calendars, many of us are yearning to count down the days to Christmas in a deeper way.

We want to ensure that the busyness and decadence of the season do not distract from the miracle of Christ's arrival in the world as a humble child.

The Advent calendar resources listed below are designed to help Christians prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth through biblical reflection, spiritual practices and everyday faith in action. We encourage you to choose an Advent calendar that helps you grow closer to God this holiday season.

Note: The resources listed in this resource were not created by The Presbyterian Church in Canada and may need to be adapted to suit your context.



Children & Families

Advent Action Calendar for Children & Families (\$)

A Sanctified Art, a collective of Christian artists who make art for church leaders and worshipping communities, has created an Advent calendar for families that provides a daily prompt to practice joy in a weary world. The calendar is designed as a colourful poster to hang on the fridge. Starting on December 1, count down the days of Advent by moving a magnet to mark each day. Then, complete the daily action prompt together as a family.

sanctifiedart.org/how-does-a-weary-world-rejoice-advent-calendar-tiered-listings

Bible Verse Advent Countdown for Kids

This simple, free, printable Advent calendar contains Bible verses for each day from December 1 until Christmas. This fun and Christ-centred calendar can be posted on the fridge or the verses can be cut out and used daily as meal conversation starters. You could also combine it with other Advent traditions, such as discussing the Bible verses while the kids eat the treats from their chocolate Advent calendars.

happyhomefairy.com/bible-verse-advent-countdown-kids-free-printable



All Ages

Reverse Advent Calendars

The Reverse Advent Calendar offers families the opportunity to focus on giving, rather than receiving, during the Christmas season. The idea is to create a calendar that lists items (e.g. food, clothing, toys) you will give away each day. Then, during Advent, you collect those items in a box in your house as you mark off each day on the calendar. There are many examples online of families using Reverse Advent Calendars. This post from Building Faith highlights how one church made the reverse advent calendar into an all-ages faith formation activity.

buildfaith.org/reverse-advent

Praying in Color

The Praying in Color website offers different templates of free, downloadable Advent calendars that will help adults and children alike engage in creative prayer throughout the season. Accompanied by instructions on how to pray through drawing, these calendars are designed with a space on the page each day for doodling, colouring and sketching your prayers.

Below you will find a link to Advent Calendar printable resources.

prayingincolor.com/resources/advent-christmas

For complete instructions on how to use the Advent Calendars please visit:

prayingincolor.com/2019-advent-calendars



A Mason Jar Advent (\$)

“A Mason Jar Advent” is a printable Advent calendar in the form of beautifully illustrated gift tags, each with an Advent prayer, activity, conversation starter or social media prompt. Each type of tag gets its own coloured ribbon, and all the tags then go into a simple mason jar. As each day unfolds, you draw a card and, day-by-day, week-by-week, prayer-by-prayer, action-by-action, count down to that holy night when God slips into the world.

saltproject.org/new-products-3/mason-jar-advent-calendar

Make Your Own Online Advent Calendar

This make-your-own digital Advent calendar website allows you to create your own Advent calendar using your own images and words. You can also include videos and games in the daily posts you create. It is free to use and a great tool for ministry leaders looking to create Advent calendars specifically for their congregations or ministry groups.

advientos.com/index.php



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