

# Presence\*

## Week 2 - Preparing Presence

Big Idea - Just as God prepared his people for the birth of Jesus, Advent allows us to prepare our hearts for the His presence.

### Discuss

How do you usually prepare for Christmas? Does your preparation look any different this year? How so?

How does preparing for Christmas usually make you feel? Stressed, excited, joyful, sad, nostalgic, anxious, etc.

Advent is a season to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. How can we prepare our hearts for Christmas this year? What have you found helpful in the past?

John the Baptist told people to prepare by repenting; changing direction by turning away from the harmful and moving towards the good. What do you need to turn away from this Advent? What do you need to move towards? How can you start doing this?

How can intentionally preparing our hearts during Advent lead to a more meaningful Christmas?

### House Church Leader Resources

**Serve:** Sign up to serve as a House Church in WE Kids. You can serve once a month and help lead kids into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Play:** Have a ginger bread house decorating night! You can even do this virtually! Decorate your houses and then let everyone vote on their favorite.

**Give:** Make a group donation to our Advent offering for Amigos for Christ. Find out more at:  
[weomaha.com/seasonofgiving](http://weomaha.com/seasonofgiving).



**ONLINE LEADER RESOURCES**  
[weomaha.com/presence](http://weomaha.com/presence)  
[weomaha.com/housechurch/leaders](http://weomaha.com/housechurch/leaders)

### Apply: Five Ways To Prepare for Christmas

**Read:** Go through one of the Christmas stories each week leading up to Christmas  
Matthew 1:18-2:12   John 1:1-18   Luke 1-2 2.

**Pray:** Each week, pray together as a family or with friends

Prayers of thanks  
Prayers for others  
Prayers of praise

**Act:** Find ways to do acts of kindness and generosity

**Repent:** To repent means to turn 180 degrees

I will turn away from...  
I will turn towards...

**Worship:** Participate in weekly worship as a family or individual

Weekly Saturday/Sunday Services  
Weekly WE Kids. and WE Youth Online  
[weomaha.com/kids/athome](http://weomaha.com/kids/athome)  
[weomaha.com/youth/athome](http://weomaha.com/youth/athome)

# Bible Reading Plan - Week 2

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

## *Week 2 Advent Reading The Candle of Hope*

Read: Malachi 3:1-4

### Lighting Of The Candle:

What better example of love that Jesus Christ, God's one and only son. He is Immanuel, God with us, walking among us. His presence preparing us for more than we can ever imagine. He walks among us, looks into our eyes and lifts our weary heads. God's gift of eternal life offered to each of us through Jesus Christ.

During this season of advent, let us prepare ourselves for His presence. For his love. Love that can surprise us. Love that is extravagant. Love that is forever. Love that will forever rule and reign.

As we light the candle of love we thank God for who he is. We praise him for his compassionate, gracious, and loving character and for his presence in our lives. That he came to rescue us from our sins and grant us eternal life. We thank God for loving us enough to take our punishment upon himself at the cross. At Christmas, we thank God that when he came to this world he didn't come shrouded by a cloud but fully revealed in a small baby boy named Jesus, preparing our hearts for all He had in store for us.

### Prayer:

God,  
You are loving and full of grace; You sent Your messengers to prepare the way for abundant and eternal life. We ask for the grace to hear and embrace your words as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.

### *Journaling:*

### *Prayer Requests:*