

Day 5 The Consummation of Love (Unbounded and Eternal)

Advent love points forward. Scripture gives us a glimpse of the day when God's love will be fully experienced: *"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man" (Revelation 21:3)*. At Christ's return, love will be consummated, no longer veiled. The same love that planned salvation before the foundations of the world is the same love that sent God's only son to live and die for sinners. It is the love that sustains us now by the power of the Holy Spirit, and it is the love that will one day wipe away every tear. Death will be no more. Pain will cease. God will dwell with His people forever. Until then, we experience God's love truly, but not fully. Advent reminds us that history is moving toward a promised end. Christ will return. His love will reign. And His people will dwell with Him forever. This is the final note of Advent love: hope-filled certainty. Jesus is coming back in glory so we can abide with Him in love forever.

Discussion Questions

- How does the promise of Christ's return influence how you endure suffering now?
- In what ways does eternal hope strengthen your love for God and others today?

A d v e n t

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, December 28th, 2025)

Advent Devotional #4 Joy

Day 1 The Cradle of Love (Incarnation)

Advent love begins not with sentiment, but with God moving toward sinners. Scripture tells us that *“God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16)*. This love is not distant or theoretical. It is incarnational: God taking on flesh, entering our darkness, and dwelling among us. The cradle shows us that God did not love us from afar. He sent His Son into a fallen, hostile world that loved darkness rather than light. Jesus was born in humility, stepping directly into human weakness and sin. He came not to condemn the world or affirm us in our sin, but to expose us with saving light to those who would believe. The birth of Jesus echoes and fulfills God’s earlier promise to Abraham, when a beloved son was laid on the altar and God provided a substitute. In the fullness of time, God did not spare His own Son. The incarnation reveals a love that pursues, gives, and acts. Love that comes to us before we ever seek it. Advent reminds us: love came down—not because we were worthy, but because God is faithful.

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between someone saying, “I love you” with words vs. actions? Which one means more to you?
- How does the humility of Christ’s birth shape how you understand God’s love?

Day 2 The Cross of Love (Atonement)

If the cradle shows us love coming near, the cross shows us love paying the full cost. Scripture declares, *“While we were still weak... Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6)*. Advent love is honest about who we are: weak, sinful, and unable to save ourselves. We were not righteous when Christ died for us. We were enemies. Yet God’s love was displayed at the perfect time, according to a plan formed before the foundation of the world. At the cross, eternal purpose met human history. Christ bore God’s wrath, secured our justification, and reconciled us to God by His blood. This love did not begin at Calvary; it originated in eternity past. God chose, planned, sent, and sacrificed—not in response to our worth, but out of His sovereign grace. Jesus humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. The cross stands as the clearest definition of love: substitutionary, costly, and saving. Advent love brings joy through suffering, and life through death. The child in the manger was born to die so sinners might live.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to admit your own weakness and sin if you are to understand the love God shows at the cross?
- How does knowing God’s plan was eternal deepen your assurance at the cross?

Day 3 The Call of Love (Gospel Made Manifest)

Love does not remain hidden. Scripture says, *“In this the love of God was made manifest... that God sent his only Son into the world” (1 John 4:9)*. To be “made manifest” means to be clearly revealed. Something present but invisible becomes visible in time. God is love in His very nature. He did not learn to love, nor did love begin at Advent. Love existed eternally within the Trinity. But in Christ, that love was put on display. God first loved us, and He made that love known by sending His Son as the payment for our sins. This is the call of the Gospel: God initiates, God reveals, God saves. We love because He first loved us. We are then called to reflect that love to others. But, we can’t do it by our own strength. It is the Spirit who dwells within us and produces the love of Christ. Advent love is both revealed to us and worked through us. The Gospel does not merely inform; it transforms.

Discussion Questions

- What would have happened if God never revealed His love to us?
- How is God calling you to reflect His love to others this Advent season?

Day 4 The Communion of Love (Love That Abides)

Jesus does not invite us merely to admire His love, but to abide in it. He says, *“Abide in my love” (John 15:9)*. To abide means to remain, dwell, and continue in a settled relationship. This is not fleeting affection; it is enduring communion. We do not keep ourselves in Christ’s love; He keeps us. Jesus promises that no one can snatch His sheep from His hand. Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ. His love is constant, guarding, and preserving. To abide in Christ’s love is to live with continual trust—resting in His presence, clinging to His promises, and remaining united to Him even in suffering. Advent love assures us that Emmanuel is not only “God with us” at His birth, but God with us always. This ongoing communion reminds us that salvation is not fragile. The love that saved us is the love that sustains us.

Discussion Questions

- In what areas of your life are you tempted to rely on yourself rather than on Christ’s love to keep you secure?
- What does abiding in Christ’s love look like in your daily life right now?