

G.R.A.C.E. PLACE FALL NEWSLETTER

Grace Lutheran Church
Dec 6th – Dec. 12th, 2020
Issue 13

You are invited to pick-up supplies at Grace at 9:00am – 9:30am THIS SUNDAY (Dec. 6th). You will receive a Faith 5 bookmark for your family as well as printed Advent questions for your family activity from page 3 of this newsletter.

To continue to prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, I want to introduce Faith5 for the rest of advent. Faith5 is something we use in confirmation and it helps us evaluate our weeks, where God has been present, and ending in prayer and blessing.



Faith5

Share

This is where you will share your highs and lows, the best part and the not-so-good part of your day or week. This is a great time to use the star conversation starters to help kids open up if they don't know where to start about how their day or week was.

Read

This part can be harder for some families who may not know where to start reading, what story to read, or where to even start looking. If you are still reading from a Spark Storybook Bible, have your child pick out a story they

would like to read. Any story will do! If you don't use a Storybook Bible, I would recommend the Gospel from worship the past week. You can find it in our worship videos on our website!

Talk

Talk about the Bible story and how it relates to your highs and lows. Think about how God was acting in the story and how God acted and helped you in your high and lows. How did the people feel in the reading compared to how you felt? If you feel like the reading doesn't connect, go back to the conversation starters you used and see if you can answer it from your reading.

Pray

Here is where you will pray for everyone's highs and lows. You can use the prayer prompts below to help spark prayers for younger kids.

Bless

Blessing each other is an amazing experience. In confirmation, we bless each other with the baptismal promise and making the sign of the cross on their forehead: "You are a child of God, marked by the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever. Amen." I would recommend using this if your child has already been through confirmation. If you have not, I would sit down with your family to create your own family blessing.

PEACE

Matthew 1:18-25

“Emmanuel, God is with us”

Advent 2 is about Peace. We are preparing for the peace of the world in the birth of Jesus. In this pandemic, we pray for peace amidst the chaos.

Head to your space you created with your family for advent. You'll want your candles, this newsletter, and a moment of peace before you enter this advent activity.

Light the first candle, read Matthew 1:18-25, and designate one family member to be the leader of today's 2nd Advent candle lighting.

Leader: When the world seems scary or uncertain,

Others: The Lord is our peace.

Leader: When peace is hard to find,

Others: The Lord is our peace.

Leader: When we are nervous or anxious or impatient,

Others: The Lord is our peace.

Leader: When everything is good...

Others: The Lord is our peace.

Leader: You, Lord, are patient and loving...

Others: The Lord is our peace.

Leader: Today, we light the candle of peace...

Others: The Lord is our peace.

Leader: Thank you God, that you are with us. Thank you for the gift of Jesus and your promise to come again. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit as we wait. May the candle of peace be a reminder that you are our peace. Amen.

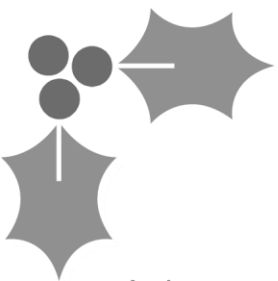
Service Project

Are you missing our church community? So are others. Come together and write a Christmas card to a family at Grace. If you'd like to participate in this service project, please email Kelsey to get a name!



Make Your Own Advent Wreath!

<https://www.catholicicing.com/advent-ideas/>



A new take on the traditional Advent calendar...

Advent is a time of anticipation for the birth of Jesus. And we know that between work, school, Christmas plays and programs, shopping, and more, it's hard to keep focused on the real reason for celebrating Christmas. But here's help!

This fun and simple activity will get your family talking, encouraging each other, having fun, and sharing about Jesus every day during the Advent season!

It includes conversation starters, prayer prompts, and this-or-that fun. Great to do at meals or on the go!

It's easy! All you'll need is a printer, paper, scissors, and three jars or cups. Here's how it works:

1. Print out the next six pages. You can either print in color or print each page on a separate color of paper.
2. Cut the strips of paper along the dotted line, and keep those in the same category together.
3. Once a day, pick one slip from each category/color and take turns answering the question on the paper.



Conversation Starters



This or That Fun



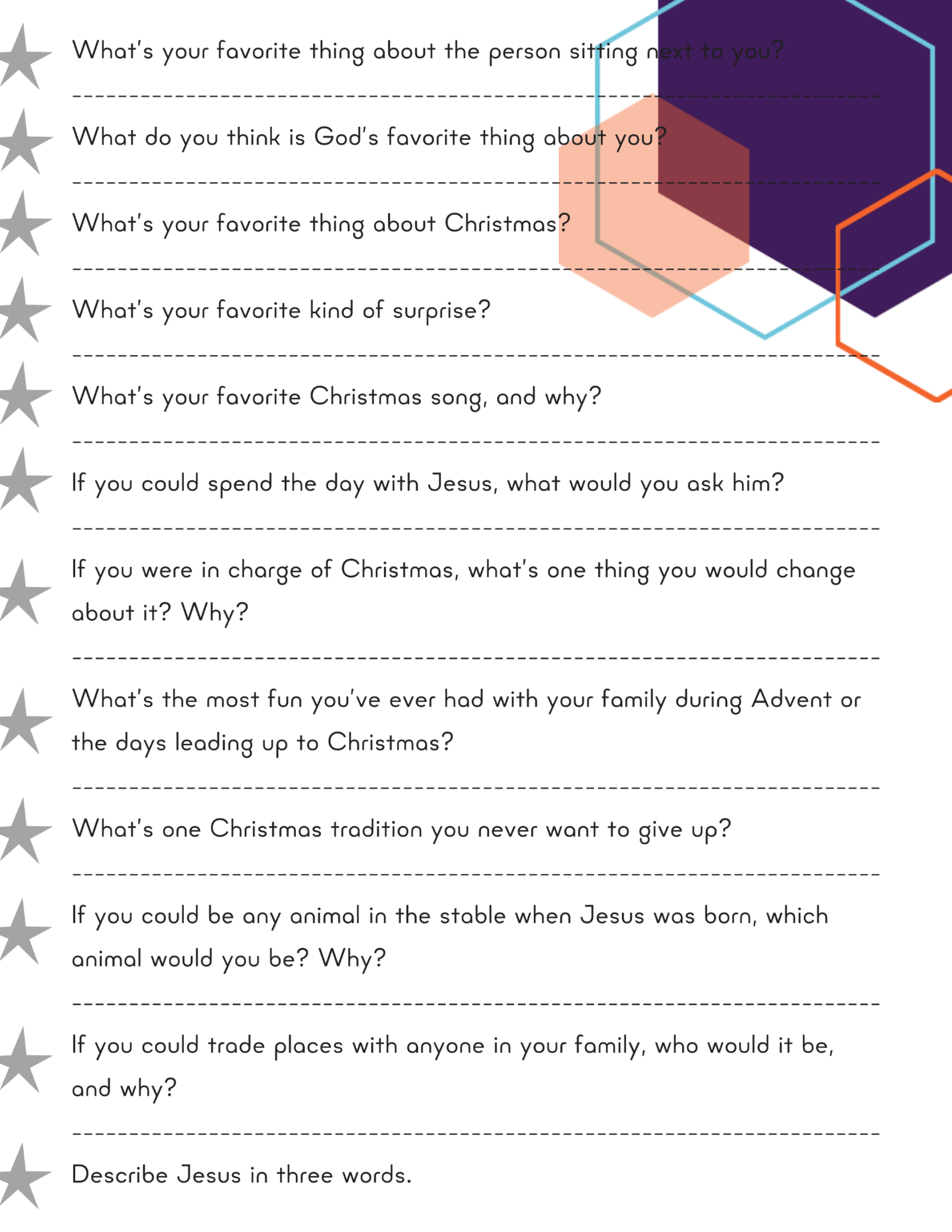
Prayer Prompts



P.S. Advent officially starts on November 29 this year!

Get more fun, faith-filled ideas for
your family at MyLifetree.com

Group
lifetree
KIDS



What's your favorite thing about the person sitting next to you?

What do you think is God's favorite thing about you?

What's your favorite thing about Christmas?

What's your favorite kind of surprise?

What's your favorite Christmas song, and why?

If you could spend the day with Jesus, what would you ask him?

If you were in charge of Christmas, what's one thing you would change about it? Why?

What's the most fun you've ever had with your family during Advent or the days leading up to Christmas?

What's one Christmas tradition you never want to give up?

If you could be any animal in the stable when Jesus was born, which animal would you be? Why?

If you could trade places with anyone in your family, who would it be, and why?

Describe Jesus in three words.



If you could ask Jesus to do ONE THING for you right now, what would it be?

What do you think Jesus' favorite game would be?

What do you like that God made, and why?

What do you love about Jesus, and why?

What in this room reminds you of Jesus?

If Jesus were a sport, what sport would he be?

Where's your favorite place to talk with Jesus?

What gift do you think Jesus would ask for on his birthday? Why?

What flavor of birthday cake do you think is Jesus' favorite?

At Christmas, what kinds of things take your attention away from Jesus?

What are ways we can stay focused on Jesus this Christmas?

What's your favorite Christmas food?

What's your favorite Christmas movie, and why?



Would you rather drink hot cocoa or apple cider?



Would you rather build a snowman or make a snow angel?



Would you rather be given a gift or have nice things said about you?



Would you rather be surprised or have something to look forward to?



Would you rather play in the snow or snuggle under a blanket and watch movies inside?



Would you rather be the best at one thing...or pretty good at a lot of things?



Would you rather drive a dog sled or go skiing?



Do you prefer cake or pie?



Do you think it's harder to be an adult or a kid?



Would you rather be a polar bear or a reindeer?



Would you rather have Jesus watch your favorite movie with you or play your favorite video game against you?



Would you rather be there when Jesus was born or when the wise men visited?



Do you prefer to sing carols or listen to them?



If Jesus lived on earth today, would you rather be his chef or his party planner?



Would you rather meet an angel or a wise man?



If Jesus were a kid right now, would you rather have him as a classmate or a teammate?



Would you rather have people pray for you or you pray for someone else?



Do you think Jesus would have preferred hamburgers or hot dogs?



Would you rather wake up early or sleep in on Christmas Day?



Would you rather decorate a Christmas tree or decorate Christmas cookies?



Would you rather give Christmas gifts or get Christmas gifts?



Do you prefer white Christmas lights or multicolor Christmas lights?



Would you rather have fresh snow on Christmas or no snow on Christmas?



Would you rather pick out your Christmas outfit or be surprised?



Do you prefer an angel or a star on top of your Christmas tree?



Close your eyes and say the name of the first person you think of. Once everyone has said a name, pray together for those people.

Write all your names on separate slips of paper. Throw them into a bowl, and have each person draw a name. Say a prayer for that person either silently or out loud.



What are you most thankful for today? Share and say a prayer of thanksgiving for it!



What are you worried about today? Take turns sharing and then ask God to help calm your worries.



Pray for those who are homeless during this Christmas season.



Have each person name someone they're thankful for. Take a moment to say prayers for each of those people.



Name a bunch of your neighbors. Pray for them.



Name a bunch of your classmates and friends. Pray for them.



Pray for someone who is hurting or sad.



Who can you help this week? Pray for God to show you how.



What's your favorite thing about God? Tell him.



Share three things you're thankful for and thank God.





Pop up and say one thing to praise God for. Take turns as many rounds as you'd like.



Ask God to protect those traveling this Christmas season.



Grab a ball or wad up a piece of paper. Take turns throwing it to each other, and be sure to thank God for the person you throw it to.



Zoom around the room and tell each person why you're thankful for them.



What is your favorite thing to celebrate? Thank God for that thing!



What went super-well today? Tell God about it!



Thank God for a new friend you've made.



Thank God for someone who is older than you.



Thank God for someone who is smaller than you.



Think about your favorite present you've ever gotten. Thank God for it and the person who gave it to you.



Ask each person "What could we pray about for you?" And then pray for them.



In just 10 seconds each, name five people you'd like to pray for. Then pray for them.



Point to your favorite thing in the room...thank God for it!