



Advent Faith Sharing For Teams

Advent Traditions

A reflection designed to be used in faith-based workplaces during the season of Advent.

The background features a central purple rectangle with white decorative swirls in the top-left and bottom-left corners. On the left and right sides, there are blurred images of Advent candles. The left side shows a lit pink candle and an unlit dark candle on a green wreath with red bows and ornaments. The right side shows two unlit dark candles on a similar wreath.

Advent Traditions

PREPARE

If meeting in person, light an Advent wreath together. If you are meeting remotely, you might invite participants to light a candle where they are.

Take a look at Matthew 1:1-17 in advance to see if you feel it would work for your team to read this aloud. Then, either begin with the Scripture passage or begin by reading the reflection below that references the Scripture passage.

Read

In Matthew 1:1–17, we hear the genealogy of Jesus. Fourteen generations are named in the first seventeen verses of Matthew's Gospel. Some of the people in this list—like Abraham or Jesse—may be familiar to us. Others, like Amminadab or Zadok, we may never have heard of. Yet each person is included, and in a very human way, each one forms part of the story of who Jesus is.

Each of us also has a genealogy—people who came before us and shaped us in ways we may know or may never fully recognize. We also likely have friends or members of our community we can call to mind who have shaped us in some way, past or present. We remember especially in this season of Advent how the culture, practices, and traditions of our family members present and past in some ways shape how we prepare for Christmas ourselves. We also remember how we also are part of the experience of others—our friends, family, and even colleagues—in ways large and small during this season.

Respond to the question(s) that resonates most.

1. What is a memorable Advent or Christmas tradition you grew up with that is important to your family of origin, culture, or ancestry?
2. Share a story of a person who is important to you and connected with your Advent, Christmas, or holiday traditions.
3. What is a holiday tradition you look forward to with friends or family this time of year?

Closing Prayer

Loving God,

We remember that each person on our team is created in your image and likeness. We come to this work with many people standing behind us in our ancestry—those known and unknown, living and deceased. We lift them up in a special way during this Advent season. Bless us, bless our families, and bless our team as we gather today.

For who else do we pray today? ...

Amen



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Reflections developed by Genevieve Jordan Laskey
Live Your Mission Consulting
liveyourmissionconsulting.com

