



## Advent. See out %

Devotions for Teens and Young Adults

by David Mead



## Sunday, Week, One

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:9-12

The tags on the presents may read "Do not open 'til Christ-mas," but Advent is all about opening up right now! Open your eyes, ears, mouth, hands and heart to receive God's great gifts this Advent SEE-Son! And see how God uses you as his gift to the world each day.

Be open to the Word God speaks to you. Be open to the forgiveness and grace God offers you so freely. Be open to God's will for you as we set out to see the Savior each day of this Advent SEE-Son and beyond.

Open Your Eyes This SEE-Son...

Throughout the SEE-Son (and particularly this week) pay close attention to the sights that draw your eyes to Christ. In what ways is displaying Christ easier, more "acceptable" in the month of December? Take advantage of that openness! Be seen!



## Monday, Week One

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3

The SEE-Son has barely begun, but let's open our eyes and take a peek at some of the gifts we've already been given.

What was the very first present God gave the world? It is the gift of light! Without that wonderful gift, we could not receive all of the other great gifts God made for us when he created the world. Without light there is no energy, no plants, no creatures. "The people walked in darkness," the Bible says, and that darkness is death.

Today, thank God for the gift of light: the gift that helps us enjoy every other gift God gives.

Open Your Eyes This SEE-Son...

If you haven't already, start marking the weeks of this SEE-Son by lighting the candles on an Advent wreath, one candle for each of the four weeks of Advent. As you light the first candle, turn off the other lights in your house. Spend a few minutes watching the light glow and grow as you thank God for the gift of light.



So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:27, 31

Open your eyes and look out your window at God's creation. Make a quick mental note of each thing you see. Each day we get just a glimpse, a peek, at the perfect gift of creation God made for us. Thank God for the gift of creation: a very good gift indeed!

As the SEE-Son starts, remember that you are God's creation. God made you by hand. And when God looks at what he has made (that means you), God sees that it is very good.

Open Your Eyes This SEE-Son...

Strive to see each person you encounter today as one of God's "very good" creations. Look for the good in each neighbor. And then open your mouth. Commend and compliment each person on the good things you see God doing.



## Wednesday, Week One

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened. Genesis 3:6-7

What might happen if you open a present marked "Do Not Open Before Christmas" too early? You learn what is inside, and the surprise is spoiled.

Adam and Eve were given just one rule in the Garden of Eden: "Do not touch this tree," God told them. But they could not resist the temptation. They both took fruit from the tree and ate it. Their eyes were opened, the Bible tells us. They learned the difference between good and evil. And as a result, God's perfect gift of creation was spoiled. Even then God planned to fix his perfect gift. Let's keep our eyes open to see what God has in store.

Open Your Eyes This SEE-Son...

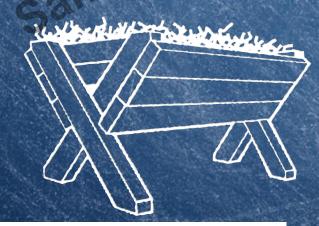
Adam and Eve had one temptation. Your world is packed full of them. Today, make a list of just five. List five specific things that are pulling your attention away from God's light. Then open up. Share that list with God in prayer.





Advent is more than a season; it's a SEE-SON! It's time to wait and watch eagerly for our Savior to appear! And it is a time to show Christ to others in what we say and do.

This eye-opening booklet of daily devotions brings the history and meaning of this special time of preparation to light. Teens and young adults will focus their full attention on the Bethlehem manger, and then look up and out to the world around them, encouraging others to keep an eye out for our returning Lord.





Written by David Mead. Images used under license from Shutterstock.com. © 2016 by Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. Printed in the USA. www.creativecommunications.com.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on

