

ADVENT

THE
WORD
MADE
FLESH

Family Worship

THE WORD MADE FLESH

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP

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THE WORD MADE FLESH

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP

ABOUT THE SERIES

In this informal Advent worship series for families, participants are reminded that Jesus came to us in the flesh and revealed his divine nature to us through the description of physical substances we experience on earth. Families take part in singing carols, making crafts, discussing questions as a group, engaging in action songs and having devotions that focus on Jesus as Bread, Salt, Rock and Light.

Week 1: Bread of Life: Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the House of Bread, to nourish and strengthen us in our faith and feed us with his Word of truth to fill our lives. *Theme verse: I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. John 6:35*

Week 2: Salt of the Earth: Jesus calls us to flavor the earth and to savor the good things that come from him through his birth. *Theme verse: You are the salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13*

Week 3: Rock of Ages: Jesus is our rock, a solid foundation on which to build a life of joy. *Theme verse: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Isaiah 51:1*

Week 4: Light of the World: Jesus brightens our lives through his birth, dispelling the darkness of sin to bring forgiveness to light. *Theme verse: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12*

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FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP

WEEK ONE NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for *The Word Made Flesh* family service for the first week of Advent as we celebrate together that Jesus is the Bread of Life who nourishes us with everything we need. In this special service, designed with children in mind, we will focus on the concepts of providence and hope.

Families will take home a devotion involving two paper plates.

WEEK ONE BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to *The Word Made Flesh* family service for the first week of Advent as we celebrate together that Jesus is the Bread of Life who nourishes us with everything we need. In this special service, designed with children in mind, we will focus on the concepts of providence and hope.

Families will take home a devotion involving two paper plates.

A Brief Description of the Worship Services

This worship series shares with families that the promise of the Messiah was more than a baby in a manger. This baby would be the Bread of Life, the Salt of the Earth, the Rock of Ages and the Light of the World. Advent is also a time to help our families remember the promise of God to send us the Messiah. The family craft and devotion is included to reinforce at home the truths we learned at church.

Promotion or Marketing Tips

The traditional church culture of having well attended mid-week Advent service is waning. Jennifer and I believe this is an important tradition for families to participate in, to pass on faith to the next generation. Therefore, we believe that one has to reset the culture and think of mid-week Advent worship for families as a new idea that needs to be marketed.

Ideas

Develop a marketing plan that starts four weeks prior to Advent. The plan would include marketing products that would be developed and launched each week.

- Create four videos highlighting the four themes to show in worship using a family in your congregation as the actors in the video. Post the videos on the church Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram feeds and encourage members to share them with their “friends.”
- Explore the print avenues the congregation uses to promote activities, and write promotion ads.
 - Hand out written invitations (like an invitation to a birthday party) on each of the four Sundays before Advent.
 - Use your children and youth activities to excite your children and youth to participate.
 - Help the congregation understand that Advent worship is for all homes—no matter their makeup.
 - Whatever you decide, it needs to be intentional, fun and carried out with excitement.

Preparing the Worship Center

A good atmosphere in which to conduct this worship may be in a room with tables for people to sit around. The tables could have centerpieces on them that reflect the theme of the worship (The Bread of Life, the Salt of the Earth, the Rock of Ages and the Light of the World). If the congregation decides on a setting around tables, an idea is to ask homes to bring their Advent wreaths to worship so what happens at home also takes place at church. And, it would be fun to see the Advent wreaths of other families.

If you have decided to worship around tables and are asking families to bring Advent wreaths, have extra candles and simple holders for families who didn't bring one. Don't forget to provide matches or a lighter at each table.

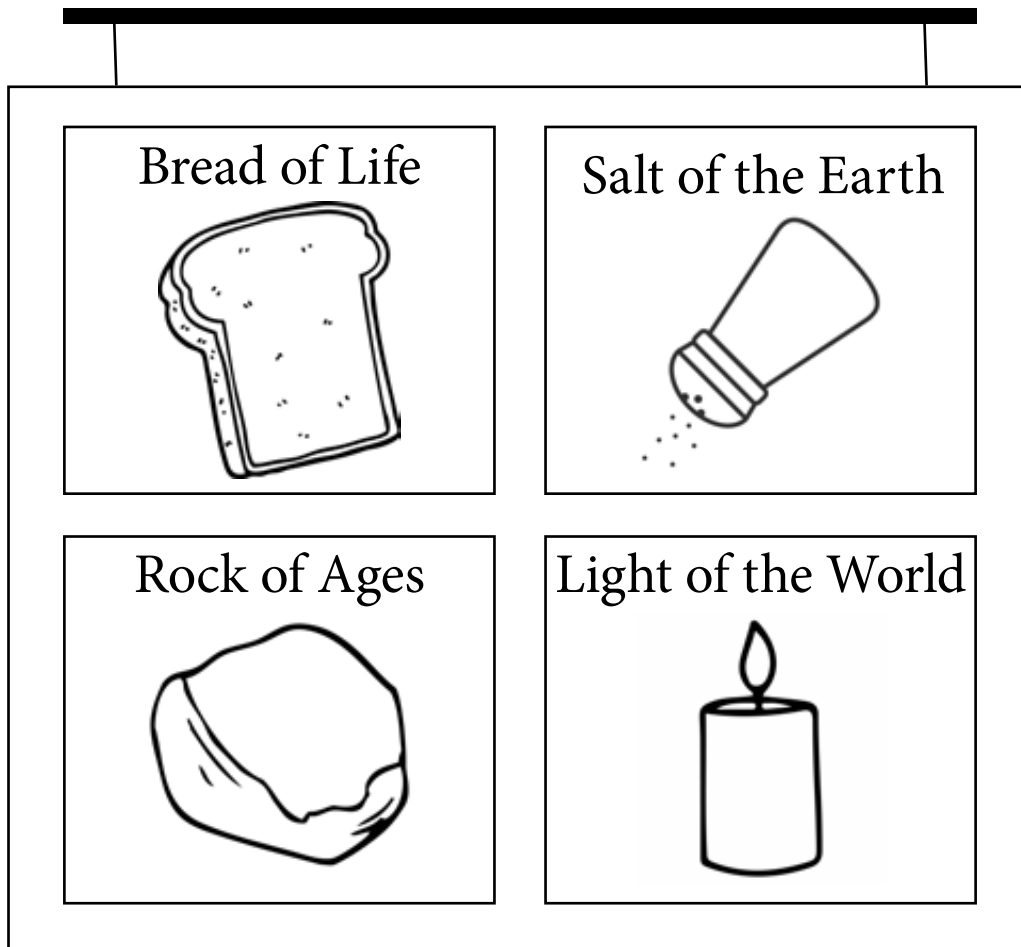
At each table, place an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper along with crayons, markers, construction paper, scissors and glue to create an image during Craft Time.

Preparing for the Countdown to Christmas Part of Worship

The Countdown to Christmas section of worship reveals a Surprise. There should be four Advent pictures that reflect the theme of the week. The church will need some way to reveal and display them. (See suggested example below.) The simplest option might be to tape or glue the 8 1/2" x 11" sheet for each week (created earlier by you or a volunteer family) on a large poster board or piece of foam core or felt. Of course, you are free to design any type of display in your own style as well.

Each poster—Bread of Life, Salt of the Earth, Rock of Ages, and Light of the World—is a picture of the theme for the service. The picture could be behind a small door, in a box or rolled up in a way that could be dropped to be revealed. After the unveiling, the picture is hung in the church in some fashion. The project of creating the poster for each week could be given to a family to prepare for each worship service. The homes will be given the same picture for use in their own Advent home devotions.

Sample Display



THE WORD MADE FLESH

FAMILY ADVENT WORSHIP

WEEK ONE:
BREAD OF LIFE

COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- These **Announcements** are read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or are read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

We are including a home devotion each week in Advent. You can pick it up from the usher as you leave the service. We suggest that you use an Advent wreath as the center of your devotion and light the first candle. If you do not have an Advent wreath, you can purchase a simple and inexpensive one from Walmart, Amazon or ask Siri or Alexa to help you find one. If you choose not to use a wreath, we suggest finding four candles to light, one candle to light for each week of Advent,

(Share if the church has made the decision to give out Advent calendars.)

Homes will also receive an Advent calendar to take home. They are designed for families to open one door a day during Advent to build anticipation until Christmas and can be used with the family devotions.

At the end of the service, homes will also be given a picture that reveals the theme in worship to use with family devotions (See p. 45)

(If you are having this worship around tables, then the pastor can say:)

We ask that you please bring your Advent wreath or candles to Advent worship next week.
We can practice in church what we are doing at home.

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life, he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35

- The **Invocation** is spoken by the pastor:

P We begin worship in the name of the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

- The **Opening Litany** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation with motions as indicated:

P Something was coming. *(Make a hand motion to come.)*

C **Something was coming.** *(Make a hand motion to come.)*

P Maybe it was a baby. *(Fold arms together and sway them as if rocking a baby.)*

C **Maybe it was a baby.** *(Fold arms together and sway them as is rocking a baby.)*

P Something was coming. *(Make a hand motion to come.)*

C **Something was coming.** *(Make a hand motion to come.)*

P Maybe it was a Savior. *(Make the sign of the cross.)*

C **Maybe it was a Savior.** *(Make the sign of the cross.)*

P Something was coming. *(Make a hand motion to come.)*

C **Something was coming.** *(Make a hand motion to come.)*

P Maybe it was the Bread of Life. *(Rub your tummy and then raise your arms in the form of a cross.)*

C **Maybe it was the Bread of Life.** *(Rub your tummy and then raise your arms in the form of a cross.)*

☐ Something was coming soon! *(Place right hand above eyes, as if looking in the distance.)*

☑ **Something was coming soon!** *(Place right hand above eyes, as if looking in the distance.)*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jefferson 87 87 D:

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

- The **Countdown to Christmas (Week 1)** is spoken by the pastor with help from a volunteer:

☐ Advent is a time for preparation for our homes and a time of anticipation as we count down to Christmas. It is a time of rehearsing the prophecies that were given to us in the Old Testament and being surprised at how they were carried out in the New Testament. The Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us. That means that God came from heaven, became a human baby (flesh) and grew up among his people for a very special surprise ending!

At church for the next four weeks of Advent, we will be revealing a surprise theme that God talks about in the Bible.

At each Advent service, the homes will be given a picture of the theme that is revealed in church. We encourage you to take the picture home, and as part of your family devotions, color it and put it in a special place in your home. You could even write this week's Bible passages on the picture.

(A member of the designated family comes forward to help pastor reveal the surprise.)

Let's reveal the theme for this service.

(A member of the designated family reveals the picture. The pastor holds up the picture (see p. 45) and places it on the display. The family member then returns to his or her seat.)

- The **Advent Responses** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P The Word Made Flesh.

C **Jesus is the Bread of Life who gives us hope!**

- The **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation and includes the lighting of the first blue or purple candle of the Advent wreath by the family who volunteered:

(The family who volunteered to light the Advent wreath comes forward.)

P The Advent wreath helps us to prepare our hearts and get ready as we count down to Christmas. There are four colored Advent candles on this wreath—each has a different meaning. The Week 1 candle is purple (or blue), and it is the candle of hope. It helps us remember the prophecies the Old Testament gave us about the Word Made Flesh.

(The family lights one purple (or blue) candle of the Advent wreath.)

P The Word made

C **flesh.**

P Jesus is

C **the Bread of Life.**

P The Bread of Life, Jesus,

C **feeds the hungry soul.**

P Candle number one reminds us that

C **Jesus is the Bread of Life because he is the Word that feeds our hungry soul and brings us hope.**

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Confession means that we are willing to ask God to forgive us for the things that we have done wrong against God’s will. When we confess our sins to God, we are willing to admit that we have been wrong. Have you been unkind in any way to someone this week? (*pause*) Have you displayed a Godly attitude in your actions this week? (*pause*) Did you disobey any laws of the road this week that could have caused harm to others? (*pause*) Did you say unkind words about anyone in front of your children or spouse this week? (*pause*) As your confession, I ask that you confess, “God, I have sinned and ask for your forgiveness.”

C **God, I have sinned and ask for your forgiveness.**

P Even though we do wrong every day, God forgives us! God, says to each one of us individually, you are forgiven in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

- The **Prayers for Families at Advent** are spoken by pastor or other worship leader:

P Dear Jesus,

C **Dear Jesus,**

P Bread of Life,

C **Bread of Life,**

P thank you for surprising us.

C **thank you for surprising us.**

P Thank you for feeding us on your Word

C **Thank you for feeding us on your Word**

P to help us grow in our faith.

C **to help us grow in our faith.**

P Help us to love your Word

C **Help us to love your Word**

P and become more like you.

C and become more like you.

P Thank you for being my hope.

C Thank you for being my hope.

P Please help our home be a place to grow in our faith.

C Please help our home be a place to grow in our faith.

P In your name we pray. Amen.

C In your name we pray. Amen.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Bereden Väg För Herran 76 76 77 66:

Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near;
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear.
Then greet the king of glory foretold in sacred story:
O blest is he that came in God the Father's name!

God's people, see him coming; your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him; spread garments; shout and sing.
God's promise will not fail you; no more shall doubt assail you:
O blest is he that came in God the Father's name!

- The **Scripture** is read by two or more of the family who volunteered to read:

(The family reading the lessons comes forward.)

I *The Old Testament reading is written in Exodus 16:1-17.*

II *They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."*

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, (Family members pantomime rain

of manna coming down with their hands) *that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.*” So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your murmurings against the LORD. For what are we, that you murmur against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening flesh to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your murmurings which you murmur against him—what are we? Your murmurings are not against us but against the LORD.” (Family members pantomime murmuring by moving their lips quickly.)

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your murmurings.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. And the LORD said to Moses, “I have heard the murmurings of the people of Israel; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning dew lay round about the camp. And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” (Family members hold up hands at their sides with palms up, having a questioning face.) *For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, every man of you, as much as he can eat; you shall take an omer apiece, according to the number of the persons whom each of you has in his tent.’” And the people of Israel did so; they gathered, some more, some less.* (Family members pantomime gathering manna.)

❶ *The Epistle reading is written in Colossians 3:15-17.*

❷ *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

❶ *The Gospel is written in John: 6:27-35.*

❷ *“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them,*

“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.”

¶ *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

(The family reading the lessons returns to their seats.)

- A **Song for Children** is sung by the children to the B-I-B-L-E tune with motions as indicated:

The B – I – B – L – E (*Count five fingers on one hand using index finger on the other hand.*)

Yes, that’s the book for me (*Put hands together with palms up as holding a book.*)

I stand alone (*Fist of one hand pounding on open palm of the other hand.*)

On the Word of God (*Point to heaven.*)

The B – I – B – L – E (*Count five fingers on one hand using index finger on the other hand.*)

- The **Message**, The Bread of Life, is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader with help from a family recruited to read:

Material needed:

Loaf of bread

Goals

Participants will be able to:

- *Share with others that the Bible calls Jesus the Bread of Life who nourishes our soul.*
- *Articulate that reading, knowing and learning the Bible is essential to having a living faith in Christ.*

Old Testament Prophecy

(The family that was recruited to read the Old Testament comes forward.)

¶ *The Old Testament prophecy for Week 1 in Advent is Psalm 78:1-4. The Psalmist prophesies to the people of his day what Jesus would teach people about God’s ways and will.*

II *Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might and the wonders that he has done.*

New Testament Prophecy Fulfilled

I *The New Testament fulfillment for Week 1 of Advent is written in John 6:27-35. Jesus tells his disciples that he was not talking about food and drink that keeps us alive and strong. He was talking about a different kind of Bread. He was teaching that he is the Bread of Life. He comes to nourish our faith to keep us spiritually alive and strong in him till life everlasting.*

II *“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him has God the Father set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”*

II *This is the Word of the God.*

(Family reading the lessons returns to their seats.)

P Let us pray. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, that your teaching may live in us and come through us for generations to come. Amen.

This Advent season is a time to remember that God promised to send a Savior to redeem the world. This promise, called prophecy, is recorded in the Old Testament many times. Isaiah the prophet was clear in Isaiah 7:14: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Emmanuel means “God with us.” Can you imagine what it was like living during Old Testament times? The people of Israel were always looking for and hoping for the promised Messiah who would be with them. Imagine them saying to each other:

When is it coming?

Maybe it's a baby.

When is it coming?

Maybe it's a Savior.

When is it coming?

Maybe it's the Bread of Life, like a teacher or a rabbi or a priest to nourish our souls?

The Psalmist tells us more about this Messiah who was coming in Psalm 78:1 "Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!"

The Psalmist was telling the people of God, many years before the Messiah's arrival, to incline their ears to the words of God's mouth, so that when the Messiah arrived, they would know the heart of God through this Word Made Flesh. This Word Made Flesh, the Messiah, would grow their love and faith in God and save them.

How do we know this is true? The Bible tells us in John 6:35: "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.'"

The Messiah was more than a baby in a manger. The Messiah, Jesus, was to be the spiritual food that would grow their faith, love and trust in God so they would be alive and strong in faith. The Bible does call Jesus the Bread of Life. Let me explain. (*Hold up the loaf of bread.*) Does the Bible mean that this is Jesus? (*Let people respond.*) No, of course not. This is a loaf of bread. Jesus is not a loaf of bread. Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior. (*Hold up the loaf of bread again.*) This is what we ask for in the Lord's Prayer when we pray "Give us this day our daily bread." Here we are asking God to provide for all our physical needs.

When it comes to Jesus being the Bread of Life, the Bible means something different. I have some questions.

QUESTION: (*Hold up the loaf of bread.*) What is the main ingredient of bread? (*Let people respond.*) That's right. Most bread that we eat is made with wheat. *The World Population Review* says that "wheat remains one of the most important agricultural products on the planet."

QUESTION: So, here is my next question: Is wheat essential to human life? (*Let people respond.*) Yes, it is. That's right. Wheat is one of the main food sources in the world. Most breads from around the world—pizza, pasta, cookies, cakes, cereals and many more of our favorite foods—contain wheat. What would happen if the supply of wheat in the world became

really low or scarce or even went away all together? (*Let people respond.*) That's right. We would die. Do you see how important wheat is to our life? Wheat is essential to life!

The World Population Review says that wheat is one of the most fundamental foods and basic ingredients in countless cultures around the world. But unsurprisingly, wheat consumption can vary sharply by country.

China is the world's largest consumer of wheat by overall volume, eating more than 97,000 tons of grain. India is in second with more than 90,000 tons. Both of these high-population countries consume about 65 kilograms of wheat per capita. The United States is a distant third in total consumption, with just over 27,000 tons. However, it has a far higher per-capita consumption, at nearly 82 kilograms per person. That may sound like a lot, but it's still just a fraction of the world's highest per capita wheat-consuming nations.

A variety of factors can influence wheat consumption levels. These include whether the grain is grown and processed domestically, its role in local cuisine and the country's overall wealth. Wheat also plays a significant role in processed foods, leading to higher wheat consumption in countries that have more manufactured diets. Yet, wheat remains one of the most important agricultural products on the planet.

QUESTION: Thinking about how important wheat is to life, why do you think Jesus called himself the Bread of Life? (*Let people respond.*) That's right, just as wheat is very important, even essential for physical life, Jesus is very important, or should I say essential, for our spiritual life.

When the Bible talks about Jesus as the Bread of Life, it is not saying that Jesus is a loaf of bread (*hold up the bread*). But, when the Bible refers to Jesus as the Bread of Life, it means that Jesus is essential. He is the one who gives and sustains our spiritual life, our faith in him.

Raise your hand if you believe that our Father sent Jesus to earth as a baby born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. (*Allow the people to raise their hands.*)

Now stand up if you are convinced that Jesus came to save us from our sins by redeeming the world through his death and resurrection? (*Allow the people to stand.*) I stand with you for Jesus. (*pause*) You may be seated.

We believe this because our Father in heaven did not stop by sending his Son. He gave us the faith to believe we are saved by grace through Jesus' death and resurrection. Ephesians 5:25-26 states, "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word... In Galatians 3:26-27 we are reminded that "You are all sons (and daughters) of God through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

God sent Jesus, the Bread of Life, to sustain our faith so that we grow in our love and trust in him. How do we do that? We do that by feasting on the Bread of Life. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" One can't stay physically alive if they don't eat and drink. A Christian can't stay spiritually alive if they don't feast on Christ, the Word Made Flesh."

How do we feast on Christ, the Bread of Life? Would you agree that Christ, the Bread of Life, is in our worship? That when we come to church, we are feasting on Christ, the Bread of Life? Christ, the Bread of Life, is in our family devotions, right? Would you agree that when we are having family devotions, we are feasting on Christ, the Bread of Life? Christ, the Bread of Life, is in our private devotions, in our praying, in Holy Communion, in Bible class, Sunday school, confirmation classes and Vacation Bible School. We are feasting on Christ, the Bread of Life, when we are doing or attending these activities. Be sure, it is not our act of feasting that powers our faith. Rather, it is only Christ whom we feast on that powers our faith.

QUESTION: Why is the Bible called the Bread of Life? We will find the answer to this question as we explore John 1:14 during family devotions. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Are you hungering and thirsting for Christ, the Bread of Life? This Advent let's enjoy and feast on Christ, the Bread of Life, and share it with our family, friends and neighbors. Why? Because it is essential for our spiritual life, our faith, to thrive. Amen.

- The **Sharing of the Peace** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ May the Bread of Life, Jesus, be with you and your family and bring you hope. Now share this peace with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

(Share the peace with one another.)

- **Craft Time** takes place for 10-15 minutes, when each group is given an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper along with crayons, markers, construction paper, scissors and glue to create an image of bread with the words "Bread of Life." Families place their creations in the front of the room for all to see.

- Either in a large group if there are not too many in attendance, or smaller family groups, ask people to discuss the questions below for **Family Advent Conversation**. Questions could be spoken, shown on a screen or handed out (see p. 40):

Why is bread (wheat) essential to human life?

Why did Jesus call himself the Bread of Life?

Why is the Bible called the Bread?

- The **Offering** is gathered.
 - The **Lord's Prayer** is spoken in unison.
 - The **Benediction** is spoken responsively by the pastor:
- ☞ Go in the hope of Jesus, the Bread of Life. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.
- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Peter CM:

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.

O Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

- Copies of the **At-Home Family Devotion for Advent Week 1 and picture for the week** are distributed by an usher. (See pp. 41-45).