

# Advent Evening – A Family Faith Trail Model

*(People sit together in groups around a table. Items needed are placed on the table. The items needed are listed below. You can add in your choice of songs or carols.)*

## Items needed:

### Part 1

Playdough

### Part 2

A map of Judea at the time of Jesus' birth

A map of your local area

Template of the [Prayer Heart](#)

### Part 3

Tealights

Black marker pens

### Part 4

Blank cardboard Christmas decorations

Textas

Glitter

Glue

Ribbon

## Welcome & Introduction to the Advent evening

We are waiting & preparing to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. Let's encourage each other and others we know, to focus on the real meaning of this special time of the year.

As we commence our evening, I invite you to speak words of welcome to each other. (i.e., "It's good to see you!" "I'm glad you're here!" "God's peace to you!")

Perhaps you could even greet each other in a different language!

**Table Sharing:** What makes your home welcoming @ Christmas? How do you welcome people to your home? What do you prepare?

## **Song:**

### **Part 1**

### **PEACE**

In the Bible Reading for this section, we think about the special names Jesus was given and how they told of His mission to the world. We also hear that Jesus came to bring "peace". Peace between God and people – the peace that passes all understanding.

**Table Sharing:** Share what your name or nick name means. Do you think your name tells anything about you?

### **Bible Reading: Matthew 1:20-25**

What names does the angel say the Saviour will be given? Why are these names significant?

**Activity:** Use the play dough to make the names - **Jesus (He saves)**  
**Immanuel (God with us)**

**Candle Lighting: Candle of peace** Read John 14:22

What gives you peace during this busy season?

**Pray:** (In your group) Pray for peace in your home this Christmas  
(Or silently) Pray for peace where there is unrest  
Pray for peace for people in other parts of the world.  
Pray for peace in your heart this Christmas

**Song:**

## **Part 2                      LOVE**

In the Bible Reading in this part, we read about Jesus' birth and see God's great love for all people in action.

**Table sharing:** When and how did you first hear about Jesus' birth and God's great love for the world?

**Bible Reading: Luke 2:1-5; Luke 2:6-7**

**Activity:** What have you had to register for?

Look at map 1. Find Nazareth, Bethlehem, Judea, Galilee & Syria. Follow the route you think Mary & Joseph may have travelled.

Look at map 2. On the map of your area, where would you have travelled to if you travelled about 110km from your home?

**Candle Lighting: Candle of Love                      Read: John 3:16**

**Prayer:** Write a prayer in the middle of the heart shape thanking God for His Love and the gift of Jesus the Saviour. Ask God to help you show His love to your family, friends & acquaintances (esp. those you know are struggling.) Fold the heart on the dotted lines. Float it in the bowl of water. What happens? Know that your prayer is heard by God!

**Song:**

## **Part 3                      HOPE**

The shepherds were filled with hope as they listened to the Good News that the angels shared. This good news was for them – lowly shepherds, .... but not only for them – for everyone!!

**Table Sharing:** Talk about a time you received Good News and how you felt. Good News brings hope and encouragement. What are your hopes this Christmas?

**Bible Reading: Luke 2:8-16**

**Activity:** Write the word hope on the Tea light candle.

**Candle Lighting: Candle of Hope**      Read: Romans 15:13

**Prayer:** Have someone lead in prayer - that God will fill all of us with hope as we trust His promises.

**Song:**

**Part 4:                      JOY**

The joy the shepherds shared was deep in their hearts. They couldn't help but tell other people about it!

**Table sharing:** What brings you joy at Christmas? How do you express joy?

**Bible Reading: Luke 2:16-20**

**Activity:**

Make a Christmas tree decoration with the words: - Peace, Love, Hope, Joy on it. You might want to share the joy of Christmas by giving the decoration to someone who needs encouragement. May you be filled with joy as you prepare for the celebration of Jesus' Birth!

**Candle Lighting: Candle of Joy**      Read 2 Corinthians 9:15

**Prayer:** Join together with the following prayer (on PowerPoint)

L: For the gift of Jesus born as a human being	<b>All:</b> We thank You, Lord.
L: For the gift of Jesus more precious than gold	<b>All:</b> We thank You, Lord
L: For the gift of Jesus our Peace, Hope and Joy and the One who dearly loves us	<b>All:</b> We thank You, Lord
L: For the gift of Jesus, Saviour of the world	<b>All:</b> We thank You, Lord.
<b>All:</b> Help us to share the Good News about Jesus with others this Christmas Through our words and our actions. <b>AMEN</b>	

**Blessing:** Say the blessing to each other

**"May the peace, hope and love of Jesus our Saviour, fill your heart and home this Advent"**

**Final Song:**