

Isaiah 9:6-7

Read Isaiah 9:6-7.
The hope candle is also referred to as the prophecy candle in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. What is something you are looking forward to this Christmas season?

[The Hope Candle / purple]

Ephesians 2:10

Take the clay and make something out of it. Take turns sharing what you made and why. God made you! Christ molds us into His image, teaching us to do what is right and good. Pray and thank God that He made you and has a plan for your life.

[modeling clay]

John 3:16

What is the shape of the wreath? The circle is a symbol of eternity. If a flea started going around on this wreath (in a circle) when would he come to the end? He would keep going forever! The Bible teaches that Jesus came that we would have everlasting life - life that will go on forever with Jesus.

[wreath]

Isaiah 7:14

You used to be a baby, didn't you? What are some of the skills you have had to learn as you have grown up? Jesus was a baby, too. He grew up, just as you are doing. He had to become a full-grown man so He could be our Savior.

[baby]

Revelation 7:9

Did you know that one day we will worship Jesus around His throne? The good news of Jesus is not just for us as Americans, but for every people group in every country, everywhere. Pray together for another country to know Jesus.

[globe keychain]

1 Corinthians 13:5-8

Read this passage two times. The first time read it as it is written. The second time replace "love" with "Jesus."

[wooden love heart]

Psalms 78:1-4

Play a round or two of the "Telephone" game (whisper a phrase to the person next to you, and see if it gets mixed up as it travels around the circle). Talk about the importance of listening carefully to Scripture. How well does your family remember the story of the birth of Jesus?

[God's Word is true]

Micah 5:2

This verse was written 700 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God always keeps His promises, no matter how long it takes, every time. Describe a time someone kept their promise to you.

[The Faith Candle / purple]

John 13:5-17

Talk about the Lord washing His disciples' feet. The disciples were to serve others. How can each of us be a servant to others?

[sponge]

2 Corinthians 9:7

God gives us everything we have and wants us to offer a part of it back to Him. How does God want us to act when we give to Him? Why?

[a penny for each person]

Luke 6:47-49

Talk about the difference of building your life on the Rock (Jesus), or the sand.

[rock]

Hebrews 13:8

Does the gum stay the same as you chew? No, it changes when it gets old, doesn't it? Jesus never changes. His love & truth remains the same. Plan to celebrate Christmas Eve with family traditions & worship at Carmel or another Christmas Eve service.

[gum]

Psalms 103:12 1 John 1:9

When you make a mistake in writing you erase it. When you do or think something wrong it's called sin. You can ask the Lord Jesus to forgive you and He "erases" it, forgiving and forgetting all about it. Think of a sin you have done and ask God to forgive you.

[partial eraser]

Matthew 4:1-11 Matthew 6:13

We're tempted with many things at Christmas! Secrets to keep, presents that are hidden, cookies and treats to sneak. Pray: Lord, keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted.

[sweet treats]

Genesis 1:26-27

We are made in God's image - we are not God, but we reflect attributes of God. Discuss ways you reflect God in your life.

[small mirror]

Psalms 98:1-4

What is your favorite Christmas hymn? Sing a little (or a lot) of it. This candle is also called the Shepherd's candle and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.

[The Joy Candle / pink]

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Compliment or encourage someone who appears to be stressed out. (Even a stranger!)

[be encouraging]

Proverbs 11:25

Cook a double portion and deliver to a young family, a neighbor, a caregiver or a widow/widower. Or pay for the person behind you in the drive-thru.

[be generous]

Colossians 3:20

Is there something you can do to make God happy? This Scripture talks about obedience. How can each of us be obedient today?

[happy face magnet]

Luke 10:27 Galatians 5:14

Our world is full of people who need a neighbor! Dear Jesus, you have taught us to love our neighbor. Show us how to be a good neighbor to everyone.

[write down names of friends/neighbors]

Ephesians 5:2

This smells good, doesn't it? What the Lord did for us by dying for our sins smelled good to God. What nice thing has each of us done lately that smells good to God?

[small perfume bottle]

John 15:12-13

Tell each of your family members one thing you love about them.

[love one another]

Proverbs 12:26 *Proverbs 25:11*

Send a kind text or leave a voicemail for someone you haven't spoken to in awhile.

[be a friend]

John 14:27

The peace candle is also known as the Angel's candle and it reminds us of the angel's message, "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men." What comforts you when you are afraid?

[The Peace Candle / purple]

Philippians 4:6-7

See this rubber band? Hold and stretch it. When we twist and stretch it, it becomes tight. That's a good example of how we feel inside when we worry. If we don't twist it, it is soft and relaxed. That is how God wants us to relax in Him. What do we need to do so that we can relax?

[rubber band]

Colossians 3:12

Leave a kind note under a family member's pillow.

[show kindness]

Psalms 143:5

Take turns sharing your favorite family memory from the last year. It's good to remember the goodness of God in your life. Thank Him for something specific that He has done for you in your past.

[share a memory]

Psalms 119:103 *Isaiah 40:8*

Take this spoon and taste some honey. How does the honey taste? Isn't it sweet? Honey is the only natural food that NEVER goes bad. God's Word is so good for us too. It never gets old, it never needs to be replaced. It stands forever.

[spoon for honey]

Mark 4:35-41

What is something you are afraid of? Why? Jesus stopped the storm when the disciples were afraid! Thank God for being with you when you are afraid.

[sea shell]

Hebrews 10:24

Write encouraging phrases on index cards and leave them under the windshield wiper on random cars.

[encourage others]

FOR DECEMBER 24

Luke 2:11

At Christmas, there are lots of gifts, cookies, parties, and games. What is the best gift you ever gave to someone? This nativity reminds us of the real reason for Christmas. God sent Jesus, His only Son, His gift to us.

[nativity scene]

FOR DECEMBER 25

Luke 2:1-20 *Matthew 5:14-16*

Light the Christ candle as you read the Luke passage to remember the miraculous story of Jesus' birth. The color of this candle is white for purity - because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior!

Now read the Matthew passage. We see that Jesus told His followers not to hide their light. What did He mean by this? How can we be light to show the Lord Jesus to other people?

[The Christ Candle / white]