

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

ADVENT

at the movies

This Christmas season, we want to help our TC families see that the story of Jesus isn't just found inside the walls of a church – His hope, peace, joy, and love show up everywhere, even in the movies we love to watch together.

Each week of Advent, we're encouraging families to gather around a story that captures something about the heart of Christmas. After watching, use the questions below to spark real conversations that point your family back to Jesus – the reason for all our hope and celebration.

How It Works:

- Pick the week's movie (listed below) and plan a movie night.
- Read the short reflection to connect the movie's message to the Advent theme.
- Use the discussion questions to talk about what you saw and how it points to Jesus.
- Pray together and thank God for the gift of Jesus.



WEEK 1 HOPE

The Polar Express

Read Before You Start:

The time is here, Advent begins!
A season of wonder and joy within.
Our first week's word is **hope** so true—
Trusting that God will do what He'll do.
A boy on a train learns what faith can be,
Believing in more than the eyes can see.
So as you watch, remember this part:
Hope starts with trusting God in your heart.



Reflection:

The Polar Express is a story about believing – even when you can't see. Advent starts with hope: being confident that God will do what He promised. Just like the boy on the train learns to trust in something beyond what he sees, we can place our hope in the promises of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- In the movie, the boy wanted to see proof before he believed. When was a time you found it hard to believe in something that was true?
- The boy learns that believing takes faith. What do you think faith means when it comes to following Jesus?
- The boy's hope was in finding out if Santa was real. What's different about the kind of hope we have in Jesus?
- How could a relationship with Jesus have benefited the characters in the movie?

Verse: Romans 15:13

WEEK 2 LOVE

The Grinch

Read Before You Start:

Hello families, week two is here,
We'll learn about love and how God is near.
For high on a mountain, cold and apart,
Lives someone with a very tiny heart.
He'll learn that love is more than a gift—
It's what helps our hearts to heal and lift.
When God sent Jesus from heaven above,
The whole world changed through His great love.



Reflection:

When the Grinch's heart grows, it's not because of gifts or decorations — it's because he experiences love and kindness from the Whos. Christmas reminds us that God showed His love for us by sending Jesus. His love changes hearts — even the grinchy ones.

Discussion Questions:

What makes the Grinch's heart change?
How do the Whos show love, even when the Grinch didn't deserve it?
How has God shown love to us, even when we didn't deserve it?
What are some ways we can show love to others this week?

Verse: 1 John 4:9–11

WEEK 3 JOY

The Star

Read Before You Start:

Hello families, week three has come fast!
Let's learn about joy – the kind that will last.
Not just a feeling that fades away,
But joy that stays strong come what may.
Bo and his friends will travel afar,
Following hope beneath the star.
They'll find that real joy is more than delight—
It's knowing Jesus was born that night!



Reflection:

The Star tells the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of animals who were part of the journey. Bo the donkey and his friends face challenges along the way, but their excitement and joy never fade because they know something amazing is about to happen. True joy doesn't come from everything going right – it comes from knowing that God keeps His promises and that Jesus has come to save us!

Discussion Questions:

What made Bo and his friends so excited and joyful on their journey?
How did they show joy even when things got hard?
What's the difference between being happy and having joy?
How can we share the joy of Jesus with others this Christmas?

Verse: Luke 2:10–11

WEEK 4 PEACE

Home Alone

Read Before You Start:

Hello families, the wait's almost done,
The day we've been dreaming of has almost come!
Though the lights may flash and the noise may roar,
Peace is something we can't ignore.
When things feel crazy, when we're afraid,
Remember the promise that Jesus made.
He gives us peace the world can't provide—
Because God Himself is by our side.



Reflection:

Home Alone shows the chaos that comes when everything goes wrong – and yet, even in the middle of the noise, Kevin finds moments of calm, courage, and peace. True peace isn't about things being perfect; it's about knowing that God is with us no matter what, and clinging to the hope that God's plan is good.

Discussion Questions:

What makes Kevin feel scared or alone? When was a time you felt scared or alone?

How does Kevin find peace by the end of the movie? What are some things that bring you peace?

How can God give us peace when life feels crazy?

What's one way we can help bring peace to someone else this week?

Verse: John 14:27

BONUS

Discussion Questions for Any Movie

If your family watches a different Christmas movie (or can't stream one of the ones above), use these conversation starters to talk about hope, peace, joy, and love in any story:

General Questions:

- What lesson did the main character learn by the end of the movie?
- Did you notice a moment when someone showed hope, peace, joy, or love?
- How did the story show that people can change or forgive each other?
- What part of the movie reminded you of something Jesus taught?
- What do you think this movie says about what really matters at Christmas?
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Follow-Up:

After talking, read Luke 2:1–20 together – the Christmas story – and thank God for giving us Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

