

Advent 1: Vigilant Hope

Family At-Home Devotion

Theme:

Staying Awake to God's Light

Scripture:

Isaiah 2:5 — "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Mark 13:37 — "Keep awake."

Light the First Candle:

Light one candle and say:

"This is the candle of Hope. Even one small light can help us see in the dark."

Wondering Questions:

- What do you hope for this Advent?
- Where did you see a little bit of light today?
- When did something small make a big difference for you?

Story: The Girl Who Paid Attention:

A teen rower named Lily heard a faint splash in thick fog during practice. She told her team to stop, and they discovered a kayaker who had fallen into icy water. Because Lily was paying attention, they helped save her life. Hope starts small—but it matters.

Talk Together:

- What small things help you feel hopeful?
- How can we stay “awake” to God’s love this week?
- Is there someone who needs extra kindness?

Family Prayer:

God of hope,

Thank you for bringing light into the world.

Help us pay attention to small things.

Help us notice when someone needs us.

Help us walk in your light. Amen.

Family Action for the Week:

Option A: The Hope Jar — Write or draw one hope each day.

Option B: The Hope Hunt — Name one “tiny good thing” each day.

Option C: The Helping Light — Choose someone to encourage this week.

Closing Blessing:

“May God’s light help you stay awake to hope.”