



2024

# Tabernacle

Jacob's Well  
Family  
Advent Guide

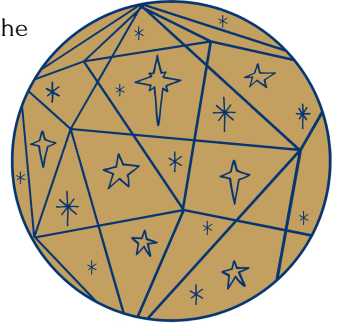


This advent we are exploring the idea of tabernacle...  
a place where we find God.  
Each week we will discover a different space where God  
has shown up in history.



# Week of December 1: Cosmos

This week of Advent we are exploring how God showed up by creating the cosmos. Invite one of the kids to google the definition of cosmos. Cosmos is defined as an orderly or harmonious universe.



## Connect

Let's pretend we could go to the moon and look on the universe God created.

- Would you want to go on this trip? Why or why not?
- What is something you would be excited to see on this trip?

Going to the Moon Game

- Grab a ball. Invite the group to gather in a circle. Begin the game by holding the ball and saying "I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm going to the moon and bringing a \_\_\_\_\_."
- Pass the ball to the player sitting to the right of the first player; they continue, saying, "I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm going to the moon and bringing a [the item the first player said] and a [the new item]."
- Continue around the circle. Each person must repeat all the previous items and add their item.



## Come Together in God's Word

Light a candle on your advent wreath or a candle you have available.

- Psalm 19 is a poem naming some of the great things God has made.
- Before reading this psalm, invite everyone to be listening for a word or phrase that pops out to them.
- Read Psalm 19.
- Invite everyone to share their word or phrase.

## Call Out to God

Lay under the Christmas tree and look up at the lights. What do you notice? Let's all think of two or three cool things God has created. God loves to hear when we notice God's creations. This type of prayer is called praise. It's like when people tell you things you're good at. Let's tell God now silently or aloud.

## Color the Ornament

Color the ornament on the included page to remember what we've discovered this week. Cut it out and hang it on your tree.

## Week of December 8: Creation / Creature

This week of Advent we are exploring how God showed up by creating a garden home for Adam and the animals.

### Connect

Ask:

- If you designed a garden home for people and animals, what would you put in it?



### Creator Challenge Game

- Invite each person in the family to find a plastic or stuffed animal.
- Using any materials you have around (pillows, Legos, blocks, toothpicks with marshmallows), work together to make a home for the animal.
- Set a timer....share your creations.



### Come Together in God's Word

Light two candles on your advent wreath or candles you have available.

- Pass out paper and markers.
- As you read Genesis 2:8-22,\* invite everyone to draw what they hear.
- After reading, invite everyone to share their drawings.
- Why do you think God included the things you drew in the garden?
- What is your favorite part of the garden?

\*Full scripture referenced is Genesis 1-11.

### Call Out to God

- Go on a walk and find a piece of evergreen. Cut it and bring it home.
- Say: Evergreens stay green all year long. Evergreen means always green or always alive. It doesn't die like many leaves that fall off the trees in fall. The evergreen tree can remind us that God is alive all the time.
- Pass around the evergreen branch. Invite each person to smell it.
- Say: We can pray one word prayers to God to our always-alive, always-listening God.
- Invite everyone to pray a one word prayer silently or aloud.



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## Week of December 15: Community

This week of Advent we are exploring how God showed up through a family.



### Connect

Guess Who Game

One person thinks of a family member. The others ask yes or no questions to guess who they are thinking of.



### Come Together in God's Word

Light three candles on your advent wreath or candles you have available.

- Read Genesis 12: 1-3 & Genesis 15:5.\*
- In these passages, Abraham's family may be described as a 'nation' or 'offspring,' but they all refer to the people of God.
- Many, many years after this, Jesus would be born into Abraham's family. We are getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth this month.
- Why do you think God chose to use people to show God's love in the world?
- And how does God use people today to show God's love to the world? What is one way we could show God's care to our neighbors this Christmas season?

\*Full scripture referenced is Genesis 12 - Exodus 20.

### Call Out to God

Take out your phone. Find pictures of people in your extended family. Let kids pick who they'd like to pray for and then take turns asking God to show love to them or help them.



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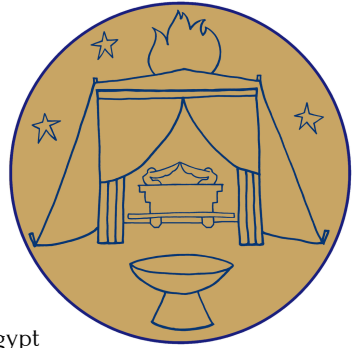
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## Week of December 22 : Tabernacle

This week of Advent we are exploring how God showed up in the tabernacle.

### Connect

The tabernacle was the place where God's presence was on earth. It was a moveable dwelling place that God's people would set up as they traveled from Egypt through the wilderness to the new safe land God had promised them. Google pictures of the tabernacle. Invite everyone to share what they see in the pictures.



Make a fort together.



### Come Together in God's Word

Light four candles on your advent wreath or candles you have available.

- Get together in your fort and read Exodus 40:18-38. Explain that the tabernacle was like a fort for God.
- Reread Exodus 40: 34-38 about the glory of the Lord. Glory means magnificence or amazing beauty
- When the people of God saw the tabernacle and the cloud over it, they had a visual reminder that God was with them. Do you ever feel God's presence with you? How? When? Where?

### Call Out to God

Find the place in your house where you feel God's presence most. Head there and get comfy. Imagine Jesus sitting in front of you or next to you. Enjoy sitting in Jesus' presence. If you want to tell Jesus something, He's listening.

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## December 25

Today we get to celebrate that God showed up in the world as Jesus!

### Connect

Bundle up and go on a walk to look at Christmas lights.

- Why do you think we put up lights at Christmas?



### Come Together in God's Word

Light all the candles on your advent wreath or candles you have available.

- Say: We're going to read from John's gospel. Whenever you hear the word, 'Word,' it is referring to Jesus. As you listen, imagine your mind is a camera that takes a photo or two of what you hear.
- Read John 1: 1-18.
- What photo did your mind's camera take?
- Reread John 1:9. What is this saying?
- What is one way that Jesus showed God's light or goodness to the world? Can you think of a way that Jesus has shown God's goodness to you?

### Call Out to God

Get out the art supplies. Make birthday cards for Jesus. Write Jesus a note on the inside.



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