



The Advent season is one of eagerness and anticipation. For KidMin Leaders, it's also a time for planning. Every prayerful plan you develop and implement will guide others toward Jesus. Whether you plan with a team or on your own, there's a significant amount of preparation to be done this time of year.

[This interactive Advent devotional](#) was created just for you, the KidMin Leader, to make plans to infuse hope, peace, joy, and love within your KidMin and in your own personal life. If you enjoy this free sample of week 1, download the full devotional for all 4 weeks of Advent [here](#).

Take a 20 +/- minute break each week and be encouraged as you spend time with your Savior. As you make PLANS for hope, peace, joy, and love you'll discover Jesus' plans for you as you draw closer to Him. To complete this holy season there is also a Christmas Eve/Day devotional provided in [the full download](#).

In each week's devotional, you'll discover a way to make PLANS...

Pause for 2 minutes to rest in the presence of God.

Listen for God's voice through Scripture.

Apply a plan to your KidMin during the week.

Notice a Christmas symbol or theme to focus on.

Surround yourself with prayer throughout the week.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Something to write with and a timer with a gentle alarm.

You can record your thoughts and prayers for the interactive parts of the devotionals within these pages or use your own journal.



Pause for 2 minutes to rest in the presence of God.

Light a candle or sit by your lighted Christmas tree if you'd like. Set a soft timer for 2 minutes. Breathe deeply, resting in God's presence.

Listen for God's voice through Scripture: Read John 1:1-18.

Write some keywords and/or phrases God is highlighting for you in this passage related to hope.

For so long, God's people had hoped and waited for His promise to send a Rescuer. God sent Jesus into a dark world as the Light of life. They did not recognize God's gift of love and grace because their expectations for a Messiah did not match who He really was. Hope seemed deferred once again.

*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."
Proverbs 13:12 (NIV)*

"Deferred" can mean put off or delayed longer than expected without experiencing hope. Without hope we can become discouraged.

Apply a plan for hope to your KidMin during the week.

Kids usually say "I hope I get..." when it comes to a certain, special Christmas gift they would really like to have. When you were a kid, what was a Christmas gift you remember hoping to receive? What was your response to receiving it, or not receiving it? Jot some notes of thoughts and feelings here.

Biblical hope is an extension of faith. Just a few verses that describe hope:

Lamentations 3:25 – to wait, look for, and expect

Hebrews 6:19 – firm and secure

1 Thessalonians 1:3 – confident expectation based on solid certainty

Feel free to look up additional verses that describe hope.

Based on Scripture's definition of hope, what are some of the current hopes that you have for the kids and families in your ministry? What hopes do you have for yourself in your KidMin role and/or personally? What delays for answers to your hopes are challenging right now in your KidMin role? For yourself personally?

Based on your answers, what plans can you make for hope this week, this Advent season and/or into the new year?

Notice a Christmas symbol or theme to focus on.

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."

Proverbs 13:12 (NIV)

Christmas trees can be thought of as a symbol hope just as the tree of life is! Draw a Christmas tree at the right, making the trunk in the shape of a cross. Be sure to include some lights! Then write within the branches some life-giving promises from God for your KidMin and yourself that you know to be true. When you see Christmas trees this Advent season, picture the cross and let the lights remind you that God holds promises for you and your KidMin that may not yet be fulfilled... but will always be right on time!

Surround yourself with prayer throughout the week.

The hope of Christmas is the hope of heaven and eternal life... a sure hope! Read John 10:28-30. Then write a prayer here to return to, and perhaps add to, throughout the season as you make plans for hope.