

Prayer Table for Advent:

Gather the following supplies. Leave them set up, or have them handy in a basket that can be set up from time to time as a reminder of God's presence and love for you.

Consider playing music or singing a song while you and your family build the prayer table together.

- Talk about the items placed on the table and what they represent.
- Thank God for this time of waiting and anticipation. What is something you hope for?
- Pray for people in need and things heavy on your heart.
- Ask God for forgiveness for your sins and know that you have been forgiven.
- Tell God something you think is cool about God.
- Close with the Lord's Prayer or a time of blessing.
- Dip your finger in the Welcome Water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead or the back of your hand to help you remember you are a loved Child of God.



Basic Supplies:

Blue Cloth or Paper - Blue represents hope, like the dawn of a new day, and the love and light Christ brings to the world. Advent blues start out as navy and grow lighter and lighter the nearer we come to Christmas, when Jesus, the light of God's love is born.

Smaller Bright or Vibrant Colored Cloth or Paper - We have been washed clean on the inside, forgiven for our sins, because Jesus died on the **Cross** for us because He loves us and the whole world so much!

Candle (and lighter if applicable) - The light of Christ that is always with us wherever we go. Let your light shine! Be the light!

Welcome Water (Small bowl and water) - We are children of God and God loves us so much!

Bible - The Word of God, God's stories. Our stories.

Photo/Drawing/Picture of Bread - We are all welcome at the Lord's Table.

Four Additional Candles - One for each of the Sundays in Advent. Light the number of candles according to what week in Advent we are on. There are four Sundays in Advent.

Optional Supplies:

Mask • Hand Sanitizer • Items representing things that are meaningful, seasonal, or family activities.

People (toys or paper cut outs or illustrations) - Representing you, your family, and/or others doing God's work in the world. • Globe or Picture/Photo of the world

Ribbon in various shades of blue to represent the shades of blue in Advent.

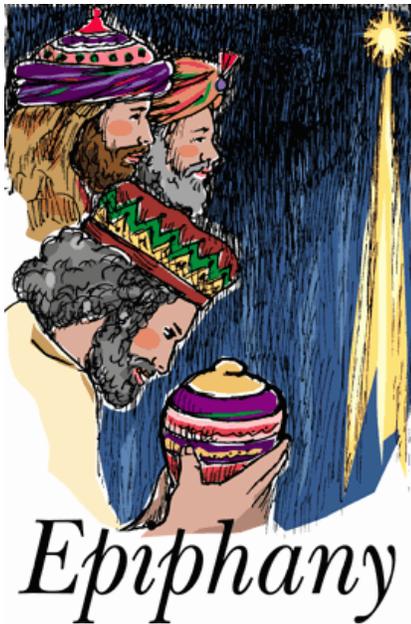
Nativity Set - Add pieces a few at a time as we move closer and closer to Christmas. Add baby Jesus on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Wise men - Like Elf on the Shelf, wise men can travel around your home, as they work their way toward seeking the Savior. The wise men arrive on January 6, Epiphany! It takes them a couple of years to find Jesus, who is around two years of age when they arrive.



Prayer Table for Christmas:

- The same as Advent except:
- **Change out the blue cloth for a white or gold cloth** - the color representing bright light, for Christ the light of the world.
- Keep or decide to not use the Advent candles. If you use them, light all four.
- Add a sprig of **evergreen**, as a reminder of God's everlasting love.
- **Wrap and empty box.** The tag reads: "To You, Love, God". - As a reminder of the different gifts God gives to each one of us, and that Jesus is the best gift of all!
- Add **baby Jesus** - either from a nativity set or a drawing or craft or photo



Prayer Table for Epiphany: Beginning January 6

- The same as Christmas Except:
- The color for **Epiphany is white** for part of the time and green for part of the time. It's a tricky season! White represents the light of Christ.
- I like to add some **sparkle**. - Epiphany also has some green Sundays, but we still focus on reflecting light or God's love to others through the things we do and say.
- Advent candles are not needed for Epiphany.
- Baby Jesus is replaced by a child sized Jesus, or something to represent Jesus growing just like we grow.
- Three Crowns** - to remind us of the wisemen who came to worship Jesus. We worship Jesus, too. What gifts do we bring him?
- Star or glow in the dark stars** - for the star the wise men followed (the light) to find Jesus, our light.