

ADVENT

Around the World Youth Resource

Introduction

This Advent, Movement, Send a Cow and the Diocese of Bath & Wells Go Team got together to create a resource for young people, youth groups and households that not only journeys through the Christmas story found in Luke's Gospel but that has a global perspective too.

There are four short videos created for Advent 2021 on the themes of: Hope, Joy, Peace and Love and the material below expands and builds on these giving a variety of ideas you can use and share with young people.

Session Outlines

Each session begins with a two-minute video, presented by Sam and Emily from Movement here in the UK, and featuring Send a Cow project workers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia reading part of the Christmas story from the Good News translation of the Bible.

Sessions also include themed ideas for listening, reading, sharing and acting as well as reflecting and praying as we journey through Advent together. There's also extra information and links giving a spotlight on the work of Send a Cow in Africa based on each of the four themes. Feel free to pick and mix material that will fit your group and context, and the time you have available. All the videos are available on the Send a Cow Youtube channel.

Social Media

You can also follow the Advent journey on social media from 28 November right through until Christmas Day using the hashtag #AdventAroundTheWorld

Follow @goteamadvisers @sendacow and @weare_movement on Instagram and Twitter.

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Around the World

Session 1: Hope

Watch the video: Join Emily and Sam from Movement and Eddie, a driver for Send a Cow in Zambia, for this week's episode of Advent Around the World: <https://youtu.be/3ZTqICvf1I>

The Hope Reading: Luke 2 v2 - 7

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn. (Luke 2: 2-7 GNT)

Question: What does hope mean to you?

Listen

Listen to this spoken word reflection called 'The Spark', by Eliza Pelling from Watchet. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RueNNcpuJCO>

Question: What gives you hope about the Christmas story?

Read

Read this quote from Brother Lawrence (a Christian in the 1600s):

"Many things are possible for the person who has hope. Even more is possible for the person who has faith. And still more is possible for the person who knows how to love. But everything is possible for the person who practices all three virtues." Brother Lawrence

Question: What things does hope make possible?

Share

Get together with your friends, family, youth group or church and share ways you could bless those around you and bring a message of hope to those who need it this Advent.

Question: How could you share hope with friends and neighbours this Christmas?

If you put some of your creative ideas into action do let us know how you get on @goteamadvisers and @sendacow or @weare_movement #AdventAroundTheWorld #Hope

Act

Check out 'Growing Hope for Refugees' – one of the many life changing virtual gifts available from Send a Cow this Christmas. <https://sendacow.org/gifts/growing-hope-refugees/>

Question: How can our actions bring hope to those around the world?

Reflect & Pray

Reflect on the Bible reading for this week (Luke 2:2-7) and thank God for the hope that this story brings to you, to your community and to the world. If it is safe to do so light a candle as you reflect and pray.

Question: How would you describe the hope that Jesus brings?

Send a Cow Spotlight: Hope

1. In the video, we heard from Eddie in Zambia. Today, find out how Send a Cow provides hope for families living in rural Africa. Watch our [What We Do](#) video.
2. Do you ride a bike? Can you imagine how having a bike could provide hope for whole communities in rural Africa? [Watch this!](#)
3. For Veronica, hope means future. Send a Cow has been working with Veronica to help her adapt to the climate crisis so that she can feed her family. Find out about how we're tackling the climate crisis in this [video](#).
4. Who is your role model? Maybe you are a role model to someone else. Caroline hopes to be a role model for others. [Read her story](#) and find out why.

"My hope for myself and my family is to live a good life, to be a role model to other families so that people can say 'I want my life to be like Caro'." Caroline, Alupe Village in Kenya

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Around the World

Session 2: Joy

Watch the video: Join Emily and Sam from Movement and Hewan, a business & enterprise trainer for Send a Cow in Ethiopia, for this week's episode: <https://youtu.be/IGWeukNu28M>

The Joy Reading: Luke 2 v8 – 12

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 8 – 12 GNT)

Question: What does joy mean to you?

Listen

Listen to Jasper Rutherford talking about 'Joy' in this video made for Open Doors Youth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY4TmNEbH-g&t=230s>

Question: What does the video teach you about joy?

Read

Read 'Joy', an Advent poem by Luke Schumann <https://jucuthin.wordpress.com/2017/12/24/joy-an-advent-poem/>

Question: What excites you most about this poem? Why?

Share

Encourage your group to write down one thing that brings them joy. Take a photo of the group holding up their pieces of paper and if you have the necessary permissions share on social media (you could easily photograph just the paper and hands, no faces). Don't forget to tag us in the post using the hashtags #AdventAroundTheWorld #Joy

Question: How is joy different to happiness?

Act

As a group, could you bring joy to someone in a Send a Cow project by purchasing a gift from their website this Christmas? Or could you encourage your church to get involved? Take a look at what's on offer here: <https://sendacow.org/gifts/> and check out the Send a Cow videos below.

Question: What has brought you joy today?

Reflect & Pray

Spend time thinking of things that bring you joy and thanking God for them.

Question: How can you choose to see joy in the everyday?

Send a Cow Spotlight: Joy

1. Are you ever filled with this amount of joy when something good happens to you? [Watch Mamma Pauline, a farmer in Kenya](#) - her joy is contagious!
2. [This is Dessie, a mother of four in Ethiopia.](#) Imagine her joy when she was told she could join a Send a Cow project! These new techniques would help her grow enough food to feed her family and send her children to school.
3. This last year has taught us that washing our hands is more important than ever before. Send a Cow teaches communities how to build Tip Taps. [Watch the video](#) and have a go yourself. Don't forget to send us photos of how you got on @sendacow @goteamadvisers #AdventAroundTheWorld #Joy
4. Together we are stronger! [Watch this video](#) and find out how Abebech and her community group in Ethiopia have joined forces to improve the land, so that everyone can benefit. What a joy it is to make a difference together!

"I do not know what to do with this happiness. Send a Cow has done a great thing in my life."
Mamma Pauline, a farmer in Kenya

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Around the World

Session 3: Peace

Watch the video: Join Emily and Sam from Movement and Gerald, Field Training Officer for Send a Cow in Uganda, for this week's episode: <https://youtu.be/XtVoZ9wslAA>

The Peace Reading: Luke 2 v13 – 15

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us."
(Luke 2: 13-15 GNT)

Question: What does peace mean to you?

Listen

Listen to the song 'Seasons' from Hillsong Worship's album The Peace Project.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFEwV77n1Ng>

Question: What does it mean to be at peace in every season?

Read

Read Philippians chapter 4 verses 6 and 7.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4: 6-7 NLT)

Question: How do you let the peace of God guard your heart and mind?

Share

A challenge for the whole group: Can you think of someone you'd like to make peace with? Look for opportunities to reach out to them this week. Start now by praying for them.

Question: How has forgiveness brought you peace in the past?

Act

John chapter 14 verse 27 tells us Jesus gives us peace.

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid. (John 14: 27 NLT)

Question: Do you think you’ve received the gift of peace? How can you pass on this gift?

Reflect & Pray

Reflect on what “peace on earth” would look like in your life and pray for it to come in the world around you.

Question: How can you be part of bringing peace in the world around you?

Send a Cow Spotlight: Peace

1. What’s the most unusual animal you’ve ever seen in your garden? For Ujeni, giraffes and elephants are just a stone’s throw away! Listen to Send a Cow’s podcast about our innovative project in Uganda: [Living With Wildlife](#).
2. Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be a refugee? What would be the most important thing to you? Find out about what’s important to [Christine](#) who fled from war torn Sudan to the Palabek Refugee Settlement in Uganda. Would you say she’s found peace in her new home?
3. Have you ever had to look after your brothers or sisters? What are the things that challenge you most? Is it a peaceful experience? Find out what actor [Ben Aldridge](#) learned when he visited some families in Uganda.
4. How much do you know about the climate crisis? Find out what it means to a farmer living in rural Africa by [reading this blog](#). Send a Cow is working alongside farmers like Gaspard to help them stand up to the effects of the climate crisis, and so bringing peace to their families.

“We hope to have enough food and at least three meals in a day. My children will be satisfied and healthy with the food I’ve grown.” Christine, mother of 5 in Uganda

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Around the World

Session 4: Love

Watch the video: Join Emily and Sam from Movement and Emmy, a Project Facilitator for Send a Cow in Kenya, for this week's episode: <https://youtu.be/ghlyZGPLIO4>

The Love Reading: Luke 2 v16 – 20

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them. (Luke 2: 16 – 20 GNT)

Question: What does love mean to you?

Listen

Do you have a favourite love song? Or maybe just one that comes to mind? Sing or hum a line or two to the group and let them guess what you're singing!

Question: What does the song say about love?

Read

Read 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 4-8.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!
(1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 NLT)

Question: What do you learn about love from the reading?

Share

A challenge for the whole group: Let someone know how much you love them this week.

Question: When have you felt most loved?

Act

Group challenge: Purchase or make a gift to give to someone as a token of love. You could check out some of the gifts available from <https://sendacow.org/gifts/> or create your own.

Question: Is it better to give or receive gifts?

Reflect & Pray

Ask God to bless those you love, individually by name. You could do this by going around the circle and speaking names out loud or by writing names on post it notes and placing them in a bowl (or in a manger if you have a nativity scene handy!)

Question: What do you treasure most in your heart?

Send a Cow Spotlight: Love

1. What do you know about the climate crisis? [Find out](#) what the climate crisis means to farming families in rural Africa and how Send a Cow is working to help them adapt to extreme weather challenges.
2. Photos can be a powerful way to tell a story. Take a photo today of something that represents a climate issue to you and share it with us on social media @sendacow @goteamadvisers #AdventAroundTheWorld. Take a look at Send a Cow's photos from the [Facing the Crisis](#) exhibition for inspiration.
3. Do you have plans for your future? For Isaac, he knew he wanted to share the love he had experienced when he was growing up. [Hear from Isaac](#), Send a Cow Farm Systems Coordinator in Kenya, about how his family's fortunes changed when they joined a Send a Cow project back in 2001. Today, Isaac helps families in rural Kenya to overcome hunger and poverty too, just like his family did.
4. Hear [Caroline's story](#), 3 years on from Send a Cow's 'Mother and Child Appeal' and the love and generosity shown by others.

"I decided there and then that when I finished high school, I wanted to study agriculture. Having seen the impact Send a Cow created in my life, I always had the desire to do the same for others." Isaac, Farm Systems Coordinator for Send a Cow in Kenya