

# Comfort & Joy

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an Advent Bible Study  
for personal, family, or group use

with Bible and prayer journaling  
and 24 printable cards for daily enrichment

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*by Juli Hesse*



**com•fort** /'kəmfərt/

*noun*

1. a state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint.
2. the easing or alleviation of a person's feelings of grief or distress.

**joy** /joi/

*noun*

a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.



# Tips for Use

## **For personal study**

Each of the four Bible studies could be used as a weeklong personal Bible time during Advent, with the printable cards displayed in the home, or chosen daily and memorized. The questions and prompts in the four Bible studies could also be used with each of the printable cards for shorter daily devotions.

## **For family or classroom use**

The four Bible studies could be used as weekly discussions with adults or older children reading the Scripture and recording responses to the prompts. The printable cards could be used as an Advent calendar or read and learned together as a daily devotion.

## **For group study**

Each of the four Bible studies would make a good once-weekly 20-30 minute Bible study with group interaction and discussion. The entire study could be used at once for an Advent by candlelight. The printable cards could be distributed for personal use outside of class, or printed and packaged as a gift to participants.

**May the Lord bless your Advent season!**

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# Isaiah 9:1-7

Scripture writing, Bible journaling, or illustrating

What **comfort** do I find in these words? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



What **joy** does this portion of God's Word give me? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What aspects of my life currently **challenge** this comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can my daily living this Advent season **reflect** this specific comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer notes for myself this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prayer notes for others this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" st. 3



# Isaiah 40:1-11

Scripture writing, Bible journaling, or illustrating

What **comfort** do I find in these words? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What **joy** does this portion of God's Word give me? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What aspects of my life currently **challenge** this comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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How can my daily living this Advent season **reflect** this specific comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer notes for myself this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer notes for others this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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"Comfort, comfort all my people;  
Speak of peace," so says our God.  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Groaning from their sorrows' load.  
Speak to all Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
That their warfare now is over."

"Comfort, Comfort All My People" st. 1



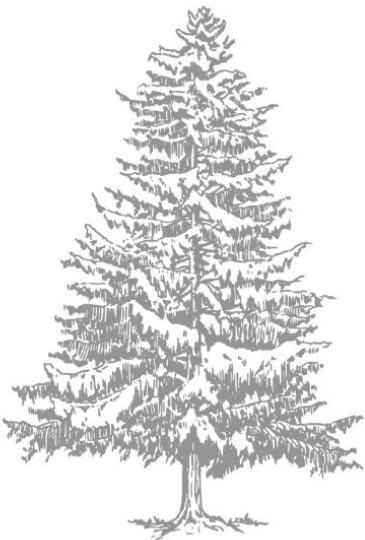
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# John 1:1-14

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Scripture writing, Bible journaling, or illustrating

What **comfort** do I find in these words? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What **joy** does this portion of God's Word give me? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What aspects of my life currently **challenge** this comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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How can my daily living this Advent season **reflect** this specific comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer notes for myself this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer notes for others this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky.

Repeat the hymn again:  
"To God on high be glory  
And peace on earth to men."

"A Great and Mighty Wonder" st. 2



# Luke 2:8-20

Scripture writing, Bible journaling, or illustrating

What **comfort** do I find in these words? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What **joy** does this portion of God's Word give me? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What aspects of my life currently **challenge** this comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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How can my daily living this Advent season **reflect** this specific comfort and joy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer notes for myself this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Prayer notes for others this week: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Once again my heart rejoices  
As I hear far and near  
Sweetest angel voices.  
"Christ is born!" their choirs are singing  
Till the air ev'rywhere  
Now with joy is ringing.  
  
Softly from his lowly manger  
Jesus calls one and all,  
"You are safe from danger.  
Children, from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed; all you need  
I will surely give you."

"Once Again My Heart Rejoices" st. 1&5



joy

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light. For those  
living in the land of the shadow  
of death, the light has dawned.

- Isaiah 9:2



comfort

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God. Speak to the heart  
of Jerusalem and call out to her.  
Her warfare really is over. Her  
guilt is fully paid for.

- Isaiah 40:1-2



joy

Rejoice greatly,  
Daughter of Zion!  
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!  
Look! Your King is coming  
to you.

-Zechariah 9:9



comfort

The wolf will dwell with the  
lamb, and the leopard will lie  
down with the young goat, the  
calf, the young lion, and the  
fatted calf together, and a little  
child will lead them.

- Isaiah 11:6



joy

My soul proclaims the greatness  
of the Lord,  
and my spirit has rejoiced in God  
my Savior.

-Luke 1:47



comfort

"Look, the virgin will be with  
child and will give birth to a son.  
And they will name him  
Immanuel," which means,  
"God with us."

- Matthew 1:23



joy

"Do not be afraid. For behold, I  
bring you good news of great joy,  
which will be for all people:  
Today in the town of David, a  
Savior was born for you. He is  
Christ the Lord.

-Luke 2:10-11



comfort

"For God so loved the world  
that he gave his only-begotten  
Son, that whoever believes in  
him shall not perish, but have  
eternal life.

-John 3:16



joy

"Glory to God in the highest, and  
on earth peace, good will toward  
mankind.

-Luke 2:14



comfort

For the wages of sin is death, but  
the gift of God is eternal life in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:23



joy

But when the set time had fully  
come, God sent his Son to be born  
of a woman, so that he would be  
born under the law, in order to  
redeem those under the law, so  
that we would be adopted as sons.

-Galatians 4:4-5



comfort

The Rising Sun from on high will  
visit us,  
to shine on those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of  
peace.

-Luke 1:78-79



joy

The Lord God will give him the  
throne of his father David. He  
will reign over the house of Jacob  
forever, and his kingdom will  
never end.

-Luke 1:32-33



comfort

He has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with  
good things.

- Luke 1:52-53



joy

The Word became flesh and  
made his dwelling among us.  
We have seen his glory, the glory  
of the one and only Son, who  
came from the Father, full of  
grace and truth.

-John 1:14



comfort

In him was life, and that life was  
the light of all mankind. The  
light shines in the darkness, and  
the darkness has not overcome it.

- John 1:4-5



joy

The end of all our woe he brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad  
and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.  
-"Lift Up Your Heads, You  
Mighty Gates" st.2



comfort

Speak to all Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
That their warfare now is over.  
-"Comfort, Comfort All My  
People" st.1



joy

And, when you shall come again  
As a glorious king to reign,  
I with joy may see your face,  
Freely ransomed by your grace.  
-"Let the Earth Now Praise the  
Lord" st.6



comfort

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.  
-"Hard the Glad Sound!  
The Savior Comes" st.3



joy

While thus they sing your monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,  
And oceans, clap your hands.  
-"A Great and Mighty Wonder" st.3



comfort

Softly from his lowly manger  
Jesus calls  
One and all  
"You are safe from danger."  
-"Once Again My Heart  
Rejoices" st.5



joy

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy...  
-"Joy to the World" st.2



comfort

What harm can sin and death then do?  
The true God now abides with you.  
Let hell and Satan storm and rave,  
Christ is your brother -  
you are safe.  
-"To Shepherd as They Watched  
by Night" st.4

