

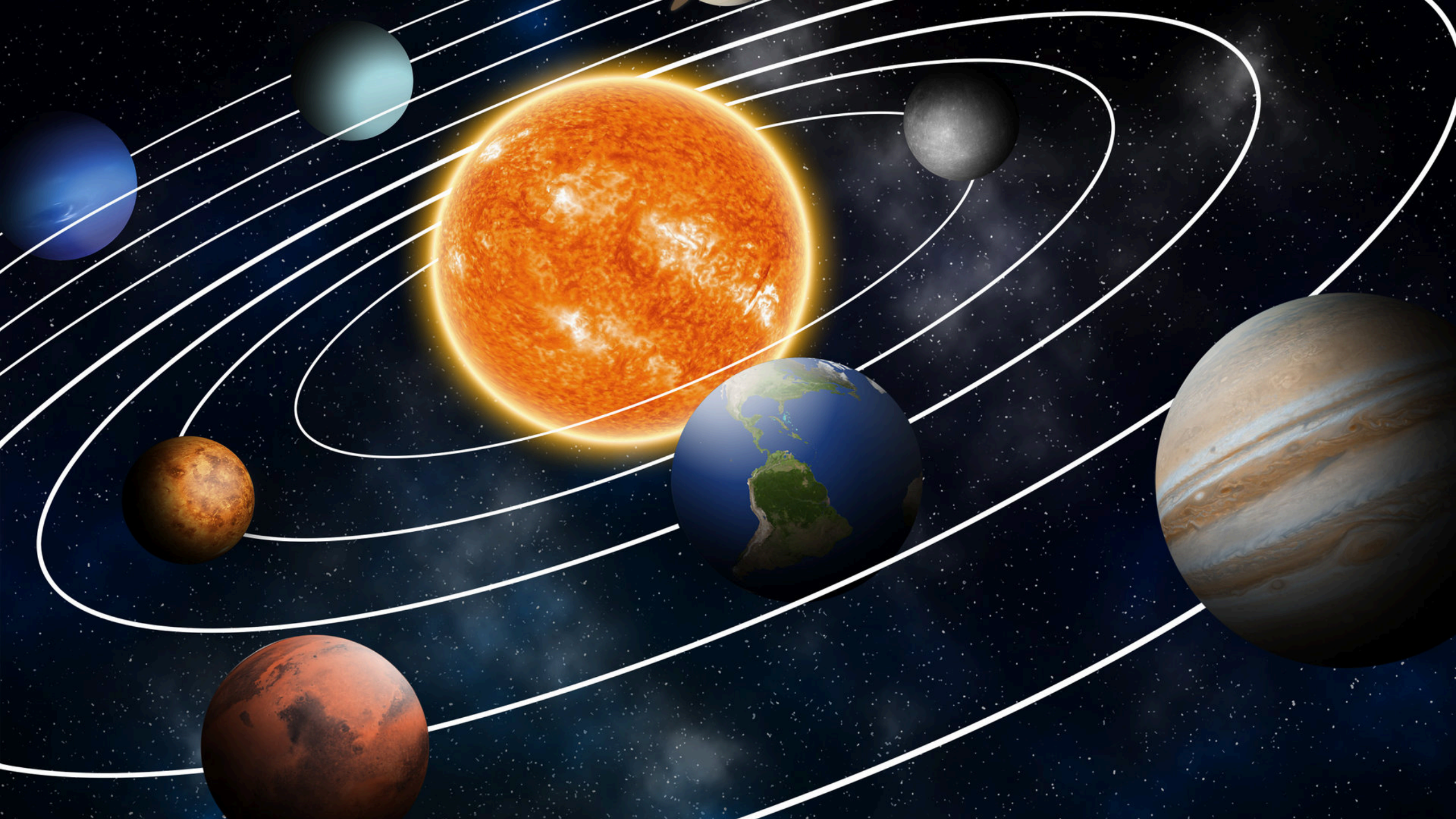
The image features four lit purple candles in the foreground, their flames glowing with a warm, golden light. The candles are arranged in a slightly staggered pattern. The background is dark and filled with numerous out-of-focus light spots, creating a bokeh effect that adds a sense of depth and festivity. In the upper right corner, a solid purple rectangular box contains the text 'Advent' in a large, white, serif font, and 'Lesson 1' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Advent

Lesson 1











kalends = 1st of month

ides = middle of month



We can do better!



February – Cleaning month

March – War god Mars

March – War god Marduk

FEBRUARY						
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FEBRUARY

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A portrait of Pope Gregory XII, an elderly man with a long, full white beard and hair. He is wearing a white papal tiara. The background is dark with some red and gold decorative elements. The portrait is a close-up, focusing on the face and upper chest.

Pope Gregory XII

October 15, 1582

The image features four lit purple candles in the foreground, their flames glowing with a warm, golden light. The candles are arranged in a slightly staggered pattern. The background is dark and filled with numerous out-of-focus light spots, creating a bokeh effect that adds a sense of depth and festivity. In the upper right corner, a solid purple rectangular box contains the text 'Advent' in a large, white, serif font, and 'Lesson 1' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Advent

Lesson 1



Adventus – "arrival"

Three Focuses



Arrival in
Bethlehem



Arrival in
your life



Arrival to
come

Advent



A close-up photograph of architectural blueprints spread out on a surface. A black pencil with a sharpened lead tip lies diagonally across the lower right portion of the image, pointing towards the center. The blueprints feature various technical drawings, including floor plans and cross-sections, with numerous dimension lines and numerical values such as 6000, 410, 900, 570, 1000, 640, 900, 570, 900, 2140, 2800, 3140, 2530, 1360, 120, 920, 4170, 178, 120, 920, 130, 250, 790, 1420, 120, 1200, 30, 120, and 2800. Some dimensions are circled, and there are small circles containing numbers like 6, 7, and 8. A dark blue rounded rectangle is positioned in the upper center of the image, containing the text "God has Plans" in a white, sans-serif font. The overall lighting is soft, and the colors are muted, with a focus on the technical details of the blueprints.

John 1:6-8 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

John 1:6-8 Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος, ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσιν δι' αὐτοῦ. οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός.

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hina - ἵνα : expresses purpose.
“in order to” or the reason why

This is NOT you!



Three Focuses



Arrival in
Bethlehem



Arrival in
your life



Arrival to
come

God has HIS
timing



The image features four lit purple candles in the foreground, their flames glowing with a warm, golden light. The candles are arranged in a slightly staggered pattern. The background is dark and filled with numerous out-of-focus light spots, creating a bokeh effect that adds a magical and festive atmosphere. In the upper right corner, a solid purple rectangular box contains the word "Advent" in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Advent

The importance of reliance



Lk 1:5-7 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah... And he had a wife... and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Lk 1:5-7 Ἐγένετο ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου βασιλέως τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἱερεύς τις ὀνόματι Ζαχαρίας. . . καὶ γυνή. . . καὶ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτῆς Ἑλισάβετ. ἦσαν δὲ δίκαιοι ἀμφοτέροι ἐναντίον τοῦ θεοῦ, πορευόμενοι ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἐντολαῖς καὶ δικαιώμασιν τοῦ κυρίου ἄμεμπτοι. καὶ οὐκ ἦν αὐτοῖς τέκνον, καθότι ἦν ἡ Ἑλισάβετ στεῖρα, καὶ ἀμφοτέροι προβεβηκότες ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις αὐτῶν ἦσαν.

Self-Sufficient

This is NOT you!



Three Focuses



Arrival in
Bethlehem



Arrival in
your life



Arrival to
come

We Rightly Rely on God





Amazing Things Happen when People Pray

Lk 1:8-11 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Lk 1:8-11 Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἱερατεύειν αὐτὸν ἐν τῇ τάξει τῆς ἡμερίας αὐτοῦ ἔναντι τοῦ θεοῦ, κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἱερατείας ἔλαχεν τοῦ θυμιᾶσαι εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὸν ναὸν τοῦ κυρίου, καὶ πᾶν τὸ πλῆθος ἦν τοῦ λαοῦ προσευχόμενον ἔξω τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ θυμιάματος. ὦφθη δὲ αὐτῷ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐστὼς ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ θυσιαστηρίου τοῦ θυμιάματος.

Lk 1:8-11 Now while he was **serving** as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

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This is NOT you!

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Incense was offered every morning and evening,
day in, day out, week after week, while months, years,
decades, and centuries rolled by.
It was service. It was a normal occurrence.



Isaiah 40

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Three Focuses



Arrival in
Bethlehem



Arrival in
your life



Arrival to
come

A high-angle, top-down photograph of a group of people of various ethnicities and ages sitting around a dark wooden table. They are all holding hands in a circle, suggesting a prayer or service gathering. Several open books, likely Bibles, are placed on the table. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. The background is a light-colored, textured floor.

Amazing Things Happen
when People Pray and Serve

Move from Fear to Faith



Lk 1:12-13 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Lk 1:12-13 καὶ ἐταράχθη
Ζαχαρίας ἰδὼν καὶ φόβος
ἐπέπεσεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. εἶπεν δὲ
πρὸς αὐτὸν ὁ ἄγγελος·
μὴ φοβοῦ, Ζαχαρία,
διότι εἰσηκούσθη ἡ δέησίς σου,
καὶ ἡ γυνή σου Ἐλισάβετ
γεννήσει υἱόν σοι
καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ
Ἰωάννην.

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Ἰωάννην.

How's your
memory?



God's memory is
beyond
photographic!



Move from Fear to Faith



Three Focuses



Arrival in
Bethlehem



Arrival in
your life



Arrival to
come

Lk 1:14 And you will have
joy and gladness, and many
will rejoice at his birth...

Lk 1:14 καὶ ἔσται χαρά σοι καὶ
ἀγαλλίασις καὶ πολλοὶ ἐπὶ τῇ
γενέσει αὐτοῦ χαρήσονται

And you will have
joy and gladness



Three Focuses



Arrival in
Bethlehem



Arrival in
your life



Arrival to
come



A lit candle in a dark holder is the central focus, casting a warm glow. To the left, a gift box wrapped in shimmering gold paper is partially visible. In the background, out of focus, are green pine branches. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the candle providing the primary light source.

Light for
Today

Live with purpose

Serve and pray

Faith over fear

The image features four lit purple candles in the foreground, their flames glowing with a warm, golden light. The candles are arranged in a slightly staggered pattern. The background is dark and filled with numerous out-of-focus light spots, creating a bokeh effect that adds a sense of depth and festivity. In the upper right corner, a solid purple rectangular box contains the text 'Advent' in a large, white, serif font, and 'Lesson 1' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Advent

Lesson 1

Time for church!



A lit candle in a dark holder is the central focus, casting a warm glow. To its left is a gift box wrapped in shimmering gold paper. In the background, there are green pine branches. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the candle providing the primary light source.

Light for
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Serve and pray

Faith over fear