



December 5, 2016

## Getting Ready Season

*“For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.” (Psalm 95:3)*

It’s that time of year. Christians around the World are preparing for Christmas. Baseball Coaches and players are training and preparing for the Spring Season.

What does it mean to prepare? How are you preparing?

As Coaches the word off-season may sound like an oxymoron. Between clinics, fall ball, conditioning programs, skills training camps, coaches barely have time to catch a breath before a new spring season starts. However, no matter how active you are during the fall and winter, it’s important to make sure both you and your team are prepared for the upcoming season. While, this may include scheduling training for players, ordering new gear, scheduling games and tournaments, reviewing and reflecting on the past season and picking areas to improve upon; the most important thing you can do is take time out, relax, and reflect! Just as players need time to take a break and recharge, it is important for coaches to spend some time to recharge, refocus and remember why it is that they coach.

The season of Advent began November 27<sup>th</sup>. The word “Advent” means “coming,” which makes sense because during this season, Christians remember and celebrate the coming of God to earth as a little child – Jesus. It is a time to reflect on the miracle of God coming to earth to atone for our sins and bring peace between God and man.

*‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’ (Luke 2:10–11)’*

Christmas is a significant time, and significant times deserve ample preparation. That’s what Advent is for; a time of reflection, a time of joy, and a time of wonder.

**Questions:** How can you use the season of Advent to prepare your heart for Christmas?

**Challenge:** Spend some quiet time each day during this “off season” and Advent. Listen to what God places in your heart. Rejoice, pray, and give thanks always in everything.

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord for calling me to coach for your Kingdom! Thank you for the opportunity to build a Christ-centered legacy! Grant me the wisdom and confidence to build a team culture focused on you. Amen

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball