

Faith Lesson Plan and Faith Activity

Chapter Advent - Prepare for Jesus

Resource - Our Sunday Visitor

Grades 3 & 4

Invite - Let us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in their prayer space and make the sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader's prayer. Proclaim the verse from Psalm 126:3 together. Have the children move out of their prayer space and back to their seats.



Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord God, as we prepare for the feast of Christmas.
We thank you for the gift of your Son, Emmanuel,
God with us.

“The LORD has done great things for us;
Oh, how happy we were!” **Psalm 126:3**

All: Amen.

Say: Mary was prepared for God's great invitation to be the Mother of his Son. Listen to the angel's words to Mary.

Guide the young people through the process of Scripture reflection below.

Invite them to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in this passage.

Display and Proclaim the Scripture.

Scripture

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, 'Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.' Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High . . .'" **Luke 1:26-32a**



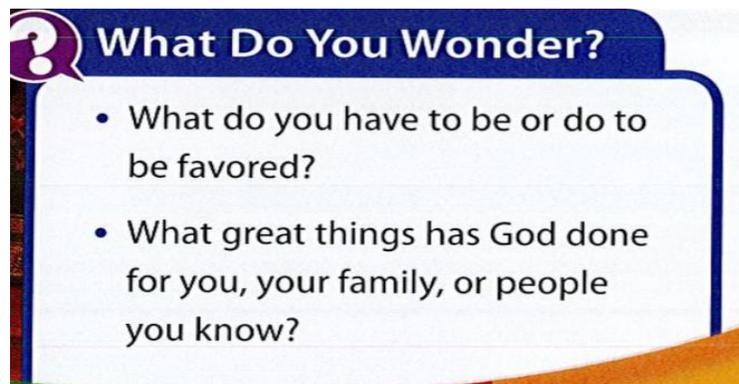
Maintain several moments of silence.

Ask: What did you hear God say to you today in this Scripture? Engage the children to respond.

What Do You Wonder?

Say: You are also a favored child of God. Just as God invited Mary to be part of his plan, he will invite you to do his work too.

Ask: the children the following questions. Engage them to respond.



What Do You Wonder?

- What do you have to be or do to be favored?
- What great things has God done for you, your family, or people you know?

Discover (1)

Objective:

Display and Read -

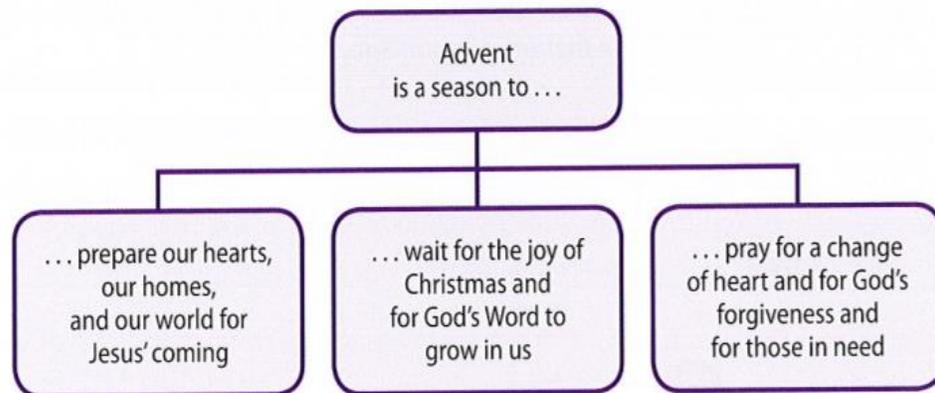
“Change our Hearts”

&

“The Path of Love”

Change Our Hearts

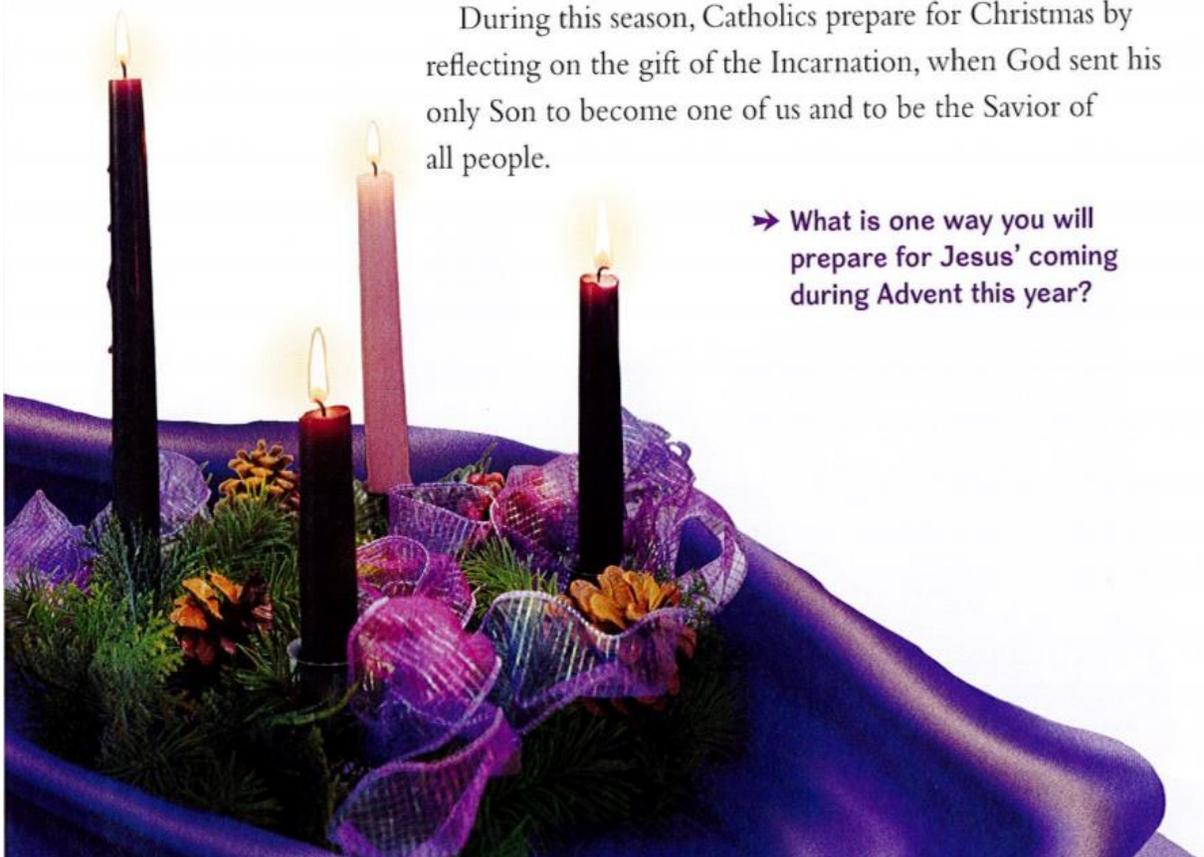
Advent is the first season of the Church year. During the four weeks of Advent, the whole Church prepares to celebrate Jesus' Second Coming into the world at the end of time.



Purple is the Advent color. The priest wears purple vestments. The church is decorated with purple decorations.

During this season, Catholics prepare for Christmas by reflecting on the gift of the Incarnation, when God sent his only Son to become one of us and to be the Savior of all people.

➔ What is one way you will prepare for Jesus' coming during Advent this year?



The Path of Love

Taking time for daily prayer before the Advent wreath with your family gives you time to reflect on Jesus' love. Small acts of sacrifice and penance can help you turn your heart toward Jesus and show greater love for others.

John told the people who were waiting for the Messiah that they would have to change. He said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Mark 1:3).

➔ What changes can you make to straighten your path and bring you closer to Jesus?



Say: The four-week season of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year of the Church. Until December 15, the focus of the season is an anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ. Then, from December 16 through December 24, liturgies prepare the faithful to celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas. The Advent wreath, from pre-Christian traditions was lit during winter as a symbol of hope for the coming spring. Christians use this symbol for hope in Christ, the everlasting light.

Ask: What is Advent?

Ask: What do Catholics prepare for during Advent?

Ask: What is one way you will prepare for Jesus' coming during Advent this year?

Ask: What changes can you make to straighten your path and bring you closer to Jesus?

Video Time

Say: Reflect on what Advent means to you. Hold those thoughts while we watch the video called: Whirl Kids Celebrate Advent.”

YouTube Link: https://youtu.be/7y_sElib8YA

Ask: What did the children in the video forget about the celebration of Advent?

Reflection

Violet is the seasonal color of Advent. Tell the children that purple means both penance and preparation.

Advent is a time to prepare the way for the Kingdom of God. Help the children see that God can reign in their lives through their actions.

Explain: A large part of Advent is waiting and preparing for Jesus. This in many ways recalls the many years that the Israelites originally waited and yearned for the coming of the Christ (Messiah) as explained in the Old Testament.

Invite the children to share any advent family traditions.

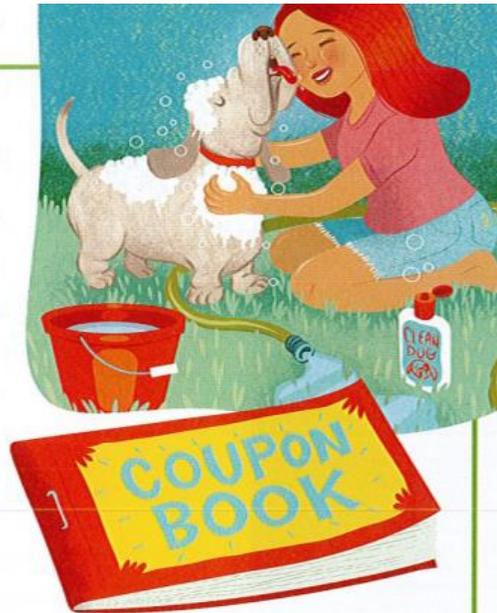
Explain that all our parish and family traditions have a purpose. These traditions are designed to teach us to:

1. Prepare our hearts, our homes, and our world for Jesus' second coming
2. Wait for the joy of Christmas and God's Word to grow in us
3. Pray for a change of heart and for God's forgiveness for those in need
4. Reflect on the gift of the Incarnation, when God sent his only Son to become one of us and to be the Savior of all people

Faith Activity

Activity

Show Your Love In the space below, create a list of loving actions you can do for members of your family. You might include things like reading a book to a younger sibling, washing the dog, cleaning up your room without complaining, or taking someone else's turn doing the dishes. Create a coupon book to give to each member of your family this Christmas.



Live

Let Us Pray

- Explain to the children that they will be praying a penitential prayer. They will be asking for God's loving mercy and forgiveness.
- Make the Sign of the Cross.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers, and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault.
therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers, and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God