

Sunday, December 14, 2008

Advent Three

Preparation:

Read the [Old Testament](#) and [Gospel](#) for the day over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/adventb3.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/reflecting_the_light.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/adv3kmart.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/3Advent-b/K-3Advent-b.html>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

Advent Wreath

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

Blue cloth

Newsprint and markers

Flashlight

Light bulb

Small mirror

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the blue cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Advent wreath, and the Bible on the cloth. Light three candles on the wreath.

Pray the following prayer together:

God be with us, as we prepare,

Jesus be with us, as we prepare,

Holy Spirit be with us, as we prepare,

Keep our hearts open for the coming new day.

Amen.

Blow out the candles. Ask the children what are some of the different ways that light gets shown in their lives. (*Wait for their responses.*) Bring out the flashlight and ask the children how this could be used to show light. Turn on the flashlight for them. Bring out the light bulb and ask the children how this could be used to show light. (*Wait for their responses.*) Then bring out the mirror and ask the children how this can be used to show light. (*Wait for their responses.*) Explain that the mirror doesn't show light all by itself but it can reflect the light. Shine the flashlight on the mirror (being careful that the reflected light doesn't hit anybody in the eyes) and show the children how the light reflects off the mirror. Tell the children that in today's story they will hear a call to reflect the light of Jesus in the world.

Story Time:

Materials needed:

A comfortable place to tell the story – on the floor with cushions or around a table

Flashlight and mirror from earlier in lesson

Take a few moments and remember with the children the story of John that they had heard the week before. Ask them if they remember the message that John wanted to share with the people. How everyone had to get prepared for the coming of Jesus.

John had been busy baptizing people. He knew that Jesus would be coming soon. John wanted the people to be ready for the coming of Jesus. John wanted them to remember what the prophet Isaiah said. John wanted them to remember God's promises. God said through Isaiah:

I will comfort all those who are sad.
I will give them flowers inside of dirt.
I will help them to rebuild their lives.
I will be with them through everything.

John knew that he needed to reflect the light of God. *Shine the flashlight on the mirror so that it reflects somewhere in the room.* John knew that he was not the light of God. John knew that he was to show the light of God to others. *Shine the flashlight around the room.* John knew that Jesus would be the light for all the world.

As John was telling the people about the coming of God's light into the world he again remembered the words that God gave Isaiah to tell the people:

I, your God, love justice and love the people who are faithful.
I will make a covenant that will last forever with my people.
I will make sure that justice comes to the people just like spring comes to the land.
I will bless my people with salvation.

John knew that the words that God had given Isaiah were always true and that God would keep the promises given to the people. John knew that soon Jesus would come and shine God's light (*shine the flashlight around the room*) on all people. John knew that the light would be one that could never be put out. John was getting excited about the coming of Jesus and what he and God would be able to do for the world.

With the children sing this song to the tune of *Baa, baa, black sheep* to finish up the story time.

**Comfort, comfort
People everywhere,
Yes God, yes God,
Love will do.**

**Comfort, comfort
People everywhere,
Let's do God's work,
Shining the light.**

**Comfort, comfort
People everywhere,
Yes God, yes God,
Love will do.**

Response:

Idea #1: Reflecting Light Candles

These candles will help the children to work on being reflective of God's light in the world.

Materials needed: small, clean glass jars, votive or tea light candles, small mirrors, epoxy glue, white glue, glitter, small bowls, paintbrushes

Instructions: Before the session glue the small mirrors to the bottom of the jars with the epoxy glue so that the mirror is facing up. Place some glitter in a bowl. Pour some white glue into a bowl and water it down to be bit thinner than normal. Give each child a prepared jar. Invite them to paint the outside of the jars with the glue and then holding the jar over the bowl with the glitter, sprinkle the glitter over the outside of the jar. Give each child a candle to place in their decorated jars. As the children are working on their jars talk with them about reflecting the light of God in the world and how the candles with the mirror can help them to remember to that. Remind the children that the candles should not be lit unless there is an adult to help them do that at home.

Idea #2: Comfort Christmas Cards

In every community and every parish there are people who will be sad this season and will need to remember God's comforting words and these cards will be a way for the children to share that with them.

Materials needed: card stock, old Christmas cards, Christmas stickers, glitter, ribbon, scissors, glue sticks, newsprint and markers

Instructions: On the newsprint print up words of comfort that the children can name (*some possibilities: help, share, bless, comfort, and love*). With the children work on a comforting phrase that can be put inside the card. Give each child a folded piece of card stock. Have the ones who can write the phrase inside the card and help the ones who can't by writing it inside the card for them. Have the children sign their names inside the cards. Invite them to decorate the outside of the card with the craft materials laid out for them. Explain that the cards will be given to those who are sad, alone or otherwise unhappy this season. Give the cards to a clergy person or other leader who has contact with those who are hurting in the parish so that they can be given out.

Idea #3: Candle Tissue Paper Picture

This candle picture will help the children remember the coming of the light – who is Jesus – into the world to bring God's light into the world.

Materials needed: candle picture at end of lesson, scissors, tissue paper – green, yellow, and red, three bowls, card stock, markers, and glue sticks

Instructions: Copy the candle picture so that each child has one copy. Cut out the picture as closely around the candle as you can. Tear up the tissue paper into small pieces and put the different colours into separate bowls. Print across the top of the card stock **WE WILL WAIT FOR THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**. Give the children the prepared card stock, and the candle picture. Have them glue the picture on to the card stock. Show them how to spread glue on a part of the candle and scrunch up the tissue paper into small pieces and glue them onto the picture – use the yellow for the flame, green for the leaves and the red for the candle itself. This will give the picture a three dimensional look to. Encourage the children to get their families to hang the picture somewhere it can be seen during this last part of Advent.

Closing:

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

For a time to prepare,

For a time to learn,

For a time to prepare,

We thank you God. Amen.

Candle Picture

