

Sunday, November 30, 2008

Advent One

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. If you can, print up the picture for the week from the website. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/adventb1.htm>

<http://www.faitn-at-home.com/tips/advent.html>

<http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/pages.dir/fridge.htm#ADVENT>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/adv1les.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/watching-waiting.html>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

Advent Wreath – 3 blue candles, one pink and one white in the centre

-for an idea on how to make one check out this site at [Domestic Church](#) or this one from [Christian Crafters](#)

Candle lighter

Bible & Bookmark

Blue cloth

Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. As this is the first Sunday of a new season, take some time to talk with the children about the colour of the cloth and the four candles. Explain that this is all part of our getting to welcome Jesus and remember his birth. 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 the first candle.

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 candle. Write the word prepare up on the newsprint vertically down one side of the paper. With the children come up with a word for each letter in the word. Some ideas might be the following: *present, red, evergreen, people, advent, recall* and *everyone*. Explain to the children that in today's story that Jesus is urging everyone to be prepared for the coming of God's kingdom. Invite them to think about how they might prepare themselves for that coming.

Story Time:

Materials needed:

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

Teach the children the following chorus to the tune of *Row, row, row your boat*:

**Keep, keep, keep awake,
We don't know when God will come.
Everyone must get ready,
For the coming of God's Son.**

Jesus was sitting with his friends. They were sitting on a hill looking over the city of Jerusalem. As they were sitting and looking Jesus told them to keep awake.

**Keep, keep, keep awake,
We don't know when God will come.
Everyone must get ready,
For the coming of God's Son.**

"Remember", Jesus said, "how the prophets of old, like Isaiah, would tell the people to pay attention to what God wants. Remember how Isaiah talked about how the people had forgotten to follow God. He told the people to pay attention for the signs from God."

**Keep, keep, keep awake,
We don't know when God will come.
Everyone must get ready,
For the coming of God's Son.**

Jesus said to his friends, "You must be ready at all times. You will not know when or where God will bring the kingdom to the world. Remember the fig tree. When it comes time for its leaves to come out you know that summer will soon be here. So remember to be ready."

**Keep, keep, keep awake,
We don't know when God will come.
Everyone must get ready,
For the coming of God's Son.**

Jesus continued to talk with his friends. He said, "You must keep awake. It will be like when a master leaves his house to go on a trip. He leaves his servants in charge and the doorkeeper keeping watch at the door. The servants and the doorkeeper do not know when the master will be get back. They do not know if he will come in the morning. They do not know if he will come late at night. They do not know if he will come in the afternoon. So you must all remember to keep awake!"

**Keep, keep, keep awake,
We don't know when God will come.
Everyone must get ready,
For the coming of God's Son.**

Response:

Idea #1: Advent Wreath

To help families consider more fully the season a wreath with candles will help them act out their faith at home.

Materials needed: 3 blue candles, one pink and one white candle per child (if you can get small stubby candles and not tall tapered ones that would be best), green tissue paper, glue, heavy paper plates

Instructions: Glue the candles onto the heavy plates – the three blue and pink ones on the outside and the white one in the centre of the plate. Give each child a prepared plate. Have them crumple up the tissue paper so that it looks like green evergreen and get them to glue it around the base of the candles. Suggest to the children that their families light the candles just like they are lit for church – one new candle each week. If your church has a candle lighting liturgy have copies of that ready for the children to take home with them.

Idea #2: Advent Sharing Calendar

This response idea will help the children and their families prepare for the coming Christmas season by sharing in activities together.

Materials needed: the calendar at the end of the lesson, blue construction paper, glue and glitter

Instructions: Make copies of the calendar at the end of the lesson. Give each child a copy of the calendar. For those who cannot read, read a few of the suggested activities that are on the calendar. Have the children glue their calendars onto the blue construction paper. With the glue make stars on the edges of the calendar and the construction paper. Shake glitter over the glue stars. Have the children shake off the excess glue into a bowl or the garbage. Encourage the children to share their calendars with their families as they make their way through Advent to Christmas.

Idea #3: Keep Awake Trumpets

Materials needed: blue construction paper, seasonal stickers, staples and stapler, markers

Instructions: Give each child a piece of construction paper. Help them to make a cone shape with it and staple it together where the two long sides join up. With the children print **KEEP AWAKE** on the side opposite of where the trumpet is stapled together. Let the children use the stickers to decorate their trumpets. Remind the children that Jesus wants us to keep awake and prepare for the coming of God's kingdom. Encourage them to share their trumpets with their families and the story that Jesus shared with them today.

Closing:

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Place the bubble container on the table. Relight the candle. 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.

Advent Sharing Calendar

Advent this year begins on November 30 and continues until the great celebration of Jesus' birth on December 25. Here is a calendar that will help parish families make space for each other, others in their communities, and space for Jesus in the world.

<p>Nov.30– Advent1 If your family does not already know it learn the Advent Carol “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. Sing the first verse & chorus as a grace during Advent.</p>	<p>December 1 Learn together the Collect prayer for the First Sunday of Advent. Can be found on p. 268 of the BAS. Say it as a family all through Advent.</p>	<p>December 2 Take time to think about those in your town who will go without this year. What as a family will you be doing to share God’s love with them?</p>	<p>December 3 For every person who can read or write in your family put 50 cents towards a charity of your choice.</p>	<p>December 4 Read together the story of the Annunciation – Luke 1:26-38. How will you answer God’s call to make room for Jesus in your life?</p>	<p>December 5 Make homemade Christmas Cards together to send to family and friends. Think about how you want to share God’s love with them.</p>	<p>St. Nicholas’ Day- Dec. 6 Find a book about St. Nicholas and see how he is connected to Santa Claus. Share some oranges together.</p>
<p>Dec.7- Advent 2 For every pair of winter boots in your house put 25 cents towards a charity of your choice. Remembering those who will go without boots.</p>	<p>December 8 Arrange to visit some people who are shut in. Take them a gift of baking or some seasonal flowers to enjoy.</p>	<p>December 9 Read a prophecy found in Isaiah of the coming of the messiah (Isaiah 11:1-9). How can we work with God for the coming of this promise?</p>	<p>December 10 Together gather around a candle; think about all the blessings that the family has been given. How will you share them with others.</p>	<p>December 11 Look around your house, for every Christmas decoration that is already up put 10 cents towards a charity of your choice.</p>	<p>December 12 As the halfway mark comes this Advent season, sing together some of your favourite Christmas carols.</p>	<p>December 13 Spend time today making Christmas ornaments to share with family and friends.</p>
<p>Dec.14-Advent 3 Ask another family to join you as you go caroling to some people in the community who will not be able to get out this Advent season.</p>	<p>December 15 As your family eats today – put 50 cents for each meal towards a charity of your choice. Remember those who will not have enough to eat.</p>	<p>December 16 Read about Mary’s visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45). Who do you need to visit to tell them about the coming of Jesus?</p>	<p>December 17 As we get closer to the birth of Jesus think about what gift your family will be giving to the wider church in the next year.</p>	<p>December 18 Read together some favourite Christmas stories. Enjoy the closeness of the family at this time.</p>	<p>December 19 Take some non-perishable food items to the local food bank or cupboard. Remember to include some Christmas extra in the gift.</p>	<p>December 20 Is there someone in your church family or community who will be alone this Christmas? Think about inviting them to join your celebrations.</p>
<p>Dec.21-Advent 4 Take time to visit or call someone who has been important to the family this past year. Thank them for their gift of love to everyone.</p>	<p>December 22 Go for an evening walk as a family – enjoy the lights and the sounds of the coming celebration.</p>	<p>December 23 Read together the Nativity story from Luke (2:1-20) and from Matthew (1:18-25). Reflect on God’s gift to the world.</p>	<p>Christmas Eve- December 24 Celebrate with your church family the coming of Jesus into the world and the gift of love that God shares with us all.</p>	<p>Christmas Day- December 25</p> 		