

Before You Begin
Make your Advent Wreath



- Get the 4 tea candles, wrap three candles with the purple pipe cleaner and one with the pink pipe cleaner (I included two extra tea candles in case you need them). Then place the large white candle in the middle, this is the Christ candle and will be lit on Christmas.
- Feel free to hot glue the tea candles to the wreath or leave them loose.

First Sunday of Advent- November 29

Mary, the Angel, and Some Very Exciting News!

You will need: Bible, Bag for first Sunday of Advent, nativity figures or some other representation of Mary and angel, advent wreath, candles, and lighter/matches

Read: Luke 1:26-38 (For younger kids, read it ahead of time and retell it to them using the puppets)

Lighting: Light the first **purple** candle

Questions for review and reflection:

- Who brought the good news to Mary?
- How do you think Mary felt? (Surprised, worried, happy, scared, sad?)
- What do you think it would be like if an angel showed up in your room to give you a message? How would you feel?
- What was the very exciting news that the angel brought to Mary?
- What exciting news does God want us to share this Christmas season?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the good news of Jesus' birth! Please help us to wait as expectantly as Mary did for the coming of your Son. May we always remember the true message of Christmas, and share that message with others through our words and deeds this Christmas Season! Amen.

Activity: Make a scratch angel. This is a fun craft the kids always enjoy. Scratch off the black layer to see the colorful layer underneath. May any decorations you want.



Second Sunday of Advent: December 6

Joseph has an Important Dream

You will need: Bible, baggie for second Sunday of advent, nativity figures for Joseph and an angel, advent wreath, candles and lighter/matches.

Lighting: Light the first week's **purple** candle

Read: Matthew 1:18-25 (For younger kids, read it ahead of time and retell it to them using the puppets)

Lighting: Light the second **purple** candle.

Questions for review and reflection:

- What was Jesus' mother's name?
- Who was she supposed to get married to?
- How did the angel appear to Joseph? What did the angel tell him?
- What did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby?
- What other, special name did the angel say that Jesus would be called? (Remind your child of the meaning of Immanuel).
- Did Joseph obey what the angel told him to do?
- Are we supposed to obey God? What does obedience to God look like?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us how to obey you by showing us how Joseph obeyed you. Help us to listen for what you want us to do and obey you right away. May we remember to be obedient to your will at Christmas time and always. Amen.

Activity: Have a Hot Chocolate Gratitude Party
Grab a mug for everyone participating, fix some steaming mugs of hot chocolate and take turns practicing gratitude while the chocolate cools. Each person shares their gratitude until everyone has had a turn. End by saying, "Thank you God, for these gifts. Amen."

What **ARE** You
Thankful
for?

Third Week of Advent: December 13

No room at the inn.

You will need: A Bible, bag for third Sunday of advent, something to represent a stable, figures of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in a manger Advent wreath, candles, lighter/matches.

Lighting: Light the **purple** candles from the first 2 weeks.

Read: Luke 2:1-7 (For younger kids, read it ahead of time and retell it to them using the puppets)

Lighting: Light the 3rd **pink** candle

Questions for review and reflection:

- Who had to make a long trip?
- Where did they go?
- Did they find a comfy place to stay while they were visiting Bethlehem?
- What very exciting event happened while they were in Bethlehem?
- Do you know what a stable is? Do you know what a manger is? (Explain these words, being sure to emphasize the fact that a stable is a common barn, and a manger is where an animal drinks. Also use wording to describe the "stinky" or unpleasant environment that a stable would be for sleeping)
- Where were you born? (emphasize the comfort and cleanliness of hospital or birth center settings vs. a stable)
- When you were a little baby, where did you sleep? (again, emphasize the comforts of a home and crib). What would it be like to sleep in a barn?
- Why do you think that God would send his Son to be born in a barn?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for the birth of your Son, Jesus! Although Bethlehem did not have room for Him, allow us to make room for Him in our hearts. We pray that we would not miss out on how special His birth was this season. Help us to remember His humble start and to stay humble ourselves. Amen.

Activity: Manger Scene Mosaic

- Peel off the stick on the front of the solid stable.
- Place the colored tissue paper squares all over the shape until completely covered.
- Take the backing off the black detailed stable scene
- Carefully place over top of colored squares.



Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 20 Shepherds and Wise Men

You will need: Bible, bag for fourth Sunday of Advent, figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, and various animals, and some sort of star, Advent wreath, candles, lighter/matches

Lighting: Light the previous 3 candles.

Read: Luke 2:8-18 and Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 (For younger kids, read it ahead of time and retell it to them using the puppets)

Lighting: Light the fourth **purple** candle

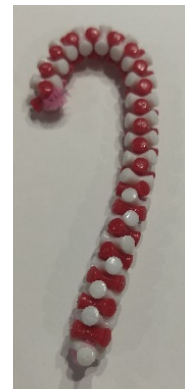
Questions for review and reflection:

- How did the shepherds feel when the angels appeared?
- What did the angels tell them to do?
- How would you feel if all those angels appeared to you?
- What did they do in response to the angels good news? (emphasize that they obeyed, worshiped, AND told others)
- What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?
- How many gifts did they bring? Do you remember what the gifts were?
- What is the greatest gift of all time?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the gift of your Son! We know that He is the best Christmas present of all! Help us to respond to His birth the same way that the shepherds did, and worship Him the way the wise men did. Remind us of the lessons that we have learned from the shepherds and wise men, and help us to live our lives as a precious gift to you. Amen.

Activities:

1. Candy cane- Find the bag with white and red beads and a pipe cleaner. Take 20 red and 20 white beads and string them onto the pipe cleaner. Bend both tips to prevent the beads from sliding off. Then bend the pipe cleaner in the shape of a candy cane. Notice that it is a shepherd's crook and the letter J.
2. 3 Wise Men Activity- Place your 3 Wise Men figures in the farthest room of your house. Each day this week, move the Kings a little closer to the place where the rest of the nativity is displayed. When Christmas arrives, so do the 3 Kings. Isn't that fun?!?!



Christmas Morning

The Light of the World!

You will need: Bible, Advent wreath, candles, lighter/matches

Lighting: Turn off all the lights, light the candles and the center Christ candle.

Read: John 1:1-5 (For younger kids, read it ahead of time and retell it to them using the puppets)

Questions to ask:

- Who is the light of the world?
- Who's birthday is today?
- What birthday gift will you give to Jesus this year?

Prayer: Jesus, we love you so much! Thank you for coming to this world to be our light! Help us to shine your light to the whole world, at Christmas and always. Be with us as we strive to live out the gifts we promised to give you this year. Happy Birthday Jesus! Amen.

Activity: Someone take baby Jesus and hid them and then the others go and find him. You can do this as many times as you want. (Erin has been playing this game since she was a little girl!)

Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and allow the kids to blow out the candles as if they were the candles on a birthday cake!

