

ADVENT

- Watch the YouTube video included in this email with your child. There is a video for younger children and one for older kids and teens.
- Talk about what stood out for you and ask what made an impression on your child.
- As you talk together, you may find it helpful to use the discussion questions or the Q & A information provided below.
- If you have any questions about the material that you would like to include as you talk with your child, feel free to email us.

Q & A

❖ WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a very special season that begins 4 weeks before Christmas. It is a time we get ready for the coming of Jesus in two ways: first, we look forward to celebrating His birth at Christmas and second, we make sure we are ready for the day Jesus will return just as He promised.

❖ ARE YOU READY?

Usually we spend weeks getting ready for the Christmas HOLIDAY: shopping, cooking, wrapping presents, parties etc. But when do we get ready for Jesus?

Do we plan parties for Him? Shop for gifts for Him? Bake Christmas cookies for Him? Not usually.

All those things we do to get ready for Christmas are good and fun things to do but we should never let them take the place of welcoming Jesus at Christmas or thinking about being ready for His return.

That's where Advent comes in!

❖ WHAT CAN I DO TO BE READY FOR JESUS THIS YEAR?

. Here are a few suggestions that your family can use to make the Advent season special this year.

- *Place an Advent wreath (available on Amazon) in the middle of your table and light the appropriate candle(s) at each meal. Find a special prayer about Advent that your family can share before meals.*
- *Give Jesus the gift of your time. Volunteer or if that isn't possible this year, earn some money and donate it to those less fortunate than you.*
- *Make a real commitment to pray more and think about whether or not you are ready for Jesus to come back.*
- *ATTEND MASS! There is no way you can honor Jesus more than by being present to worship and receive the great gift of His Body and Blood. (cont.)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What if you looked up into the sky tonight and saw Jesus coming in the clouds. How would you feel? If we're ready, we'll feel great joy and happiness but if we aren't... If you don't feel ready, how could you change that this Advent?
- When you see the preparations for Christmas all around you, do you ever feel like Jesus isn't the first thing on people's minds? Why or why not?
- Name 3 things you're doing to get ready for the Christmas *holiday* and 3 things you are doing to get ready for Jesus during Advent (be creative about your Advent plans and let Jesus know He is first on your list!)