

Why does Jesus come
to save us?

Lesson 22

Advent



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“The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.” Isaiah 9:1

ENCOUNTER 193



Prayer

Gathering Prayer

Leader: During Advent, let us prepare a place for Jesus in our hearts. As we pray before the Advent wreath, let the light of the four candles remind us of the light of Jesus that is born in our hearts. Help us to walk in your light, O Lord.

All: Help us to walk in your light, O Lord.

Leader: As we prepare our homes for Christmas, help us to prepare our hearts for your birth.

All: Help us to walk in your light, O Lord.

Leader: As we look for gifts for those we love, let us remember the gift of Jesus.

All: Help us to walk in your light, O Lord.

Activity

Color the Advent wreath as you pray this prayer:

*Help us to walk in your light,
O Lord.*



Advent helps us prepare for the birth of Jesus.

When we plant a seed, we watch it grow. We know we must be patient. We are full of hope.

The season of Advent is a time to wait and hope. During Advent, we get ready to welcome Jesus into our hearts. Advent is four weeks long. We do things to get ready for Jesus. We pray. We help others. We learn more about our faith.

Little by little, our Advent time of waiting is filled with joy. When Christmas comes, we are ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. We welcome him into our hearts.



Advent

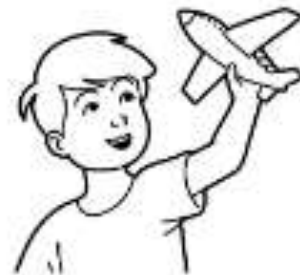
Did You Know?



Waiting is a part of growing.

Activity

Circle the things you do to get ready every day.



What is something you can do to get ready for Jesus?

Readers Theater

The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus

Luke 1:26–38

Roles: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3,
Narrator 4, Angel, Mary, All

*The Angel Gabriel came to bring good news for Mary.
Listen for the special message God sent to Mary.*

Narrator 1: God sent an angel to the town of Nazareth.

Narrator 2: The angel was named Gabriel.

Narrator 3: The angel had good news for a woman named Mary.

Narrator 4: The Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary.

Angel: “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you”
(Luke 1:28).

Narrator 1: That means Mary was blessed in a special way.

Narrator 2: Mary was surprised that the Angel Gabriel came to her!

Angel: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God” (Luke 1:30).

Narrator 3: The angel said Mary would have a baby.

Narrator 4: Her baby would be the Son of God.

Angel: You shall name the baby Jesus, and he will be great.

Mary: How can this be?

Angel: God has chosen you, Mary. "The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

Narrator 1: God knew that Mary was special.

Narrator 2: She would be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

Narrator 3: Mary was glad.

Narrator 4: The angel was glad.

Narrator 1: Then the Angel Gabriel was gone.

All: Everyone waited for Jesus to be born.



Mini-Task

During the season of Advent, we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

You are going to design an Advent trading card. Think about the season and the ways you get ready for Jesus. Use words and pictures to design your card.

Show your trading card to a partner. Tell about your drawing.

celebrates Advent.

Name of season:

Color of season:

What we celebrate:



Want to do more? Go to your Portfolio to continue this activity.

At Home

As a family, think of all the kinds of light you have in your home. Some examples are lamps, sunlight through windows, candles, computers, and flashlights. Talk about why Jesus is the brightest light in your lives.

How did the Son of God
enter human history?

Lesson 23

Christmas



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“For God so loved the world that he
gave his only Son.” John 3:16

ENCOUNTER 199



Prayer

Gathering Prayer

Leader: The joy of Christmas is God's greatest gift to the world: the birth of his Son, Jesus.

Glory to God in the highest!

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Jesus is the Light of the World, alive in our hearts.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Jesus is the Prince of Peace, showing us how to live in peace with one another.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Jesus is the Word of God, teaching us how to love God by the way we live.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Activity

Look at the names of Jesus that are in the prayer. Circle the name you like best. Talk about why the name you chose is your favorite.

Light of the World

Prince of Peace

Word of God

Christmas is a season of love.

Christmas is a time of love. The most important gift of love at Christmas comes from God the Father. God loves us so much that he sent us his Son, Jesus. Jesus came to show us God the Father's love. He came to bring us joy.

Jesus was born in a stable. His mother, Mary, and her husband, Joseph, did not have many things. Yet they were happy. They loved Jesus. Their love shows us the love of God.



Christmas

Did You Know?



The best gifts come from God.

Activity

Look at the picture of Jesus' birth. Draw lines from each person in the picture to the person's name.



Readers Theater

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:8–20

Roles: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3,
Narrator 4, Angel, Shepherd 1, Shepherd 2

The shepherds saw an angel who brought them good news. A baby was born, the Savior! They ran to see.

Narrator 1: Near the town of Bethlehem, shepherds were watching their sheep.

Narrator 2: It was night.

Narrator 3: It was very dark.

Narrator 4: The shepherds saw an angel!

Angel: I bring you “good news of great joy
For today in the city of David a savior
has been born” (Luke 2:10–11).

Narrator 1: The angel said they would find the Savior in a manger.

Narrator 2: The angel left.

Narrator 3: The angel went to heaven.

Narrator 4: The shepherds were amazed.

Shepherd 1: What can this be? Who is the Savior?

Shepherd 2: We must go to Bethlehem and see.

Narrator 1: The shepherds ran off to find Jesus.

Narrator 2: It did not take them long to see the manger.

Shepherd 1: Look! There is the baby, the Savior.

Shepherd 2: His mother and father are so happy!

Narrator 3: The shepherds told Mary and Joseph about the angel.

Narrator 4: Everyone was amazed by the story.

Shepherd 1: We must go back to our sheep now.

Shepherd 2: We must tell others about the Savior!

Narrator 1: Mary was happy with all that the shepherds said.

Narrator 2: The shepherds thanked God for letting them see the Savior.



Mini-Task

During the season of Christmas, we celebrate God's gift of Jesus.

You are going to design a Christmas trading card. Think about the season and the ways we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Use words and pictures to design your card.

Show your trading card to a friend. Tell about your drawing.

celebrates Christmas.

Name of season:

Color of season:

What we celebrate:



Want to do more? Go to your Portfolio to continue this activity.

At Home

Talk as a family about any Christmas traditions you have. Decide on a new tradition you can start to help you focus even more on Jesus this Christmas.