

Why does Jesus come to save us?

Lesson 22

Advent



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“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.” Luke 3:4



Gathering Prayer

Leader: As we celebrate the season of Advent, we thank God for this special time when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

O God, we are blessed to know your Son, Jesus.

All: (*Touch your head with your hands.*)

We are blessed to know Jesus.

Leader: We are blessed to see him in one another through our loving and caring actions.

All: (*Touch your eyes with your hands.*)

We are blessed to see Jesus.

Leader: We are blessed to hear his words in Scripture and in the kind words we share with one another.

All: (*Touch your ears with your hands.*)

We are blessed to hear Jesus.

Leader: The light of Jesus shines in you!

All: (*Point to the person next to you.*)

The light of Jesus shines in you! Amen.

Activity

Draw something you can do to get ready for Jesus' birth at Christmas.

We show patience as we wait for Jesus.

Advent means “to come” or “is coming.” During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus.

We show patience as we wait. *Patience* means “waiting peacefully for something to happen.” When we are patient, we wait without getting upset when things take a long time.

Jesus is the greatest sign of God’s love. We wait patiently for Jesus because he loves us.

We can be patient in many ways as we wait for Jesus. We can say an extra prayer every day to keep our thoughts on Jesus. We can be kind and helpful to a friend or family member.

We can work harder at taking care of others who need our help. We pay attention to Jesus, whom we see in the love and goodness of others.



Advent

Did You Know?



Patience pays off.

Activity

Circle the ways we can wait patiently. Mark an X on actions that do not show patience.

pay attention

pray

be bossy

ignore

complain

think of Jesus

help others

Advent Prayer Ritual



"O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel"

Leader: Lord God, we joyfully await the coming of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let your love be with us this season. The light of this wreath reminds us of the light of Christ. Jesus shines in our hearts and in the world!

In Advent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Let us pray: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Let us listen to a reading from the prophet Isaiah:
"A voice proclaims:
In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for
our God!
Every valley shall be lifted up,
every mountain and hill made low; . . .
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all . . . shall see it together" (Isaiah 40:3-5).

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All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Lord Jesus, prepare in our hearts a place for your return.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Jesus, open our eyes so that we may see you in the faces of each other.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: Jesus, help us to remember that Advent is a gift to us. It is a time that helps us prepare for the season of Christmas. Help us to make Advent special with our prayers and good works. We prepare the way for your coming at Christmas.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

How can I prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

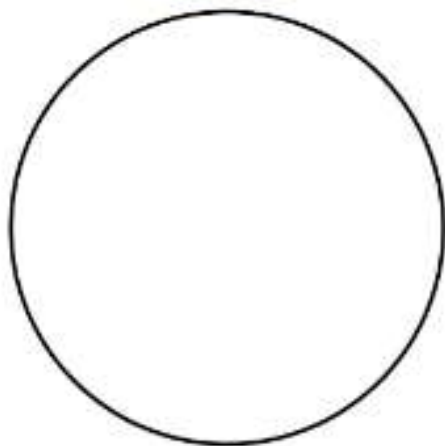
Mini-Task

The first season of the Church year is Advent. Advent helps us get ready for Jesus! During Advent, we light a special wreath with pink and purple candles. Purple is the color of Advent.

Design an icon for Advent. An icon is a type of symbol that uses a picture to represent something. Choose colors and a picture to use as your icon.

Share your icon with a friend. Can your friend guess which season it symbolizes? Explain why you designed it to look the way it does.

Advent



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

At Home

With your family, talk about ways you can show patience and kindness to others this Advent.

How did the Son of God enter human history?

Lesson 23



Christmas

"I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:10

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Gathering Prayer

Leader: We give thanks for the beautiful season of Christmas. We give thanks for the gift of Jesus, who fills our lives with love and peace.

Let us sing: "O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

All: "O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

Leader: With the angels who sang with Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, we sing:

All: "O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

Leader: We are filled with joy because Jesus is born in our hearts! Let us sing:

All: "O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

Activity

Do you have a favorite Christmas song about Jesus?
Teach the song to your group.

Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary.

Christmas Day is so important that the Church celebrates it for eight days. The celebration begins with the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, December 25. This is the Feast of the Nativity. Eight days later, on January 1, we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God.



Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. He is the Son of God and the Son of Mary. He is both fully divine and fully human. God is his Father, and he had a human mother.

On January 1, we celebrate Mary as the Mother of God. We respect and love Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Mary is a mother to us, too. She wants us to be close to her Son, Jesus.

Christmas

Did You Know?



Mary is Jesus' Mother and ours, too.

Activity

Work with a partner to list the members in Jesus' family.

Christmas Prayer Ritual



"Silent Night"

Leader: The beautiful season of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, is a season of joy and gifts. Jesus, God the Father's greatest gift to humanity, was born to save humankind from sin and death.

When we pray in front of the manger, we see Jesus as a baby with his Mother, Mary, and his foster father, Joseph. God gave Joseph care over Mary and his only begotten Son, Jesus. What an amazing responsibility!

"Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king."

All: (*Sing*) "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king."

Leader: Listen to a Scripture reading from Luke 2:8–12:

"Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them . . . and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people . . . A savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'"

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All: *(Sing)* "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king."

Leader: I proclaim to you good news of great joy: Christ the Lord is born for us.

All: *(Sing)* "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king."

Leader: At Mass, we sing the song of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will."

All: *(Sing)* "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king."

Leader: Jesus came to offer the gift of his peace to us. Let us now offer the sign of Christ's peace to each other.

(Offer a sign of peace by shaking hands with those around you.)

All: *(Sing)* "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king."

Mini-Task

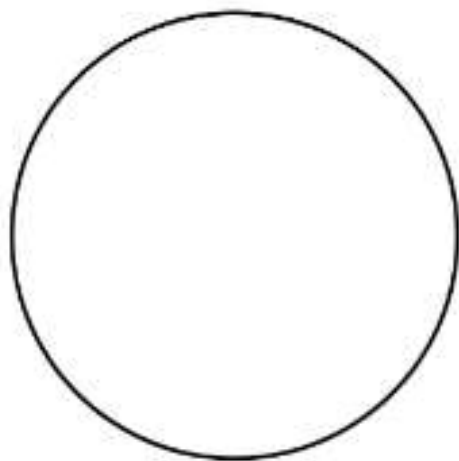
Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We hear about the angel who told the shepherds that Jesus was born. We learn about the wise men, who brought gifts to newborn Jesus.

During the Christmas season, the church is decorated in white and gold.

Design an icon for Christmas. An icon is a type of symbol that uses a picture to represent something. Choose colors and a picture to use as your icon.

Share your icon with a friend. Can your friend guess which season it symbolizes? Explain why you designed it to look the way it does.

Christmas



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

At Home

As a family, make an ornament or another decoration to celebrate Jesus' birth. Hang your ornament or decoration in your home.