

Why does Jesus come to save us?

Lesson 22



Advent

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"Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"

Revelation 22:20

Gathering Prayer

Leader: The Advent season is a beautiful time of preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The four weeks of Advent change from waiting for Jesus' return to us to waiting for his birth. During this time of waiting, we prepare our hearts for the love of Jesus Christ born in our hearts. Let us pray that we may let the love of Christ in us grow deeper and stronger this Advent.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus, prepare our hearts to be open to your love this Advent.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus, as the lights of the Advent wreath grow brighter each week, let our hearts burn with desire for your birth.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus, let your light shine through our words and actions, reaching out to our families and friends, and all in the world.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Activity

Imagine you were one of the people waiting for Jesus' birth. Talk in small groups about ways you would prepare the way of the Lord.

What would I tell people about the baby who would soon be born? _____

What would I bring to Mary and Joseph as they waited for Jesus? _____

Advent is a time of joy and hope.

Advent is a season of hope. God promised to send his Son to save us. Jesus came to show us the Father's love. In Advent, we wait in joyful hope to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

One way to celebrate is with an Advent wreath. There are four candles on the Advent wreath, three purple and one pink. Each week, we light another candle, until all four are lit. Each week, our wreath gets brighter. Jesus, the Light of the World, is coming soon!

In winter, the days are short and dark. The lighted candles of the Advent wreath remind us that the light of Jesus illuminates the world.

As we light each candle of the Advent wreath, we pray: "Come, Lord Jesus!" We ask Jesus to come into our home, our parish, and the whole world. There is joy wherever Jesus is!



Advent

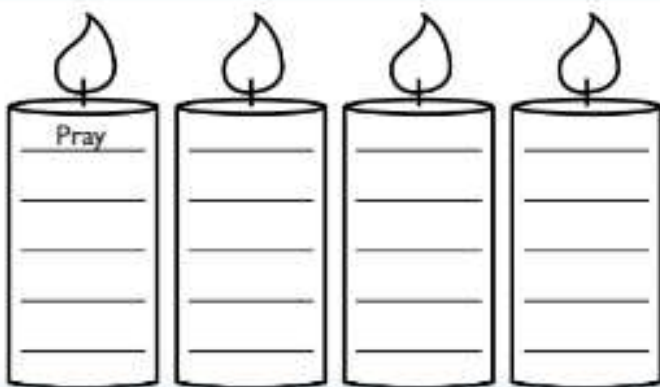
Did You Know?



The Advent wreath has many symbols.

Activity

On each of the Advent candles, write something you can do to prepare for the coming of Jesus. One has been done for you.



Readers Theater

John the Baptist Mark 1:1–8

**Roles: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3,
Narrator 4, John the Baptist**

People came from near and far to see John the Baptist.

Narrator 1: John the Baptist appeared in the desert.

Narrator 2: He preached about repentance.

Narrator 3: And the forgiveness of sin.

Narrator 4: He used the words of the prophet Isaiah.

John: "Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths" (Mark 1:3).

Narrator 1: John wore a tunic of camel's hair.

Narrator 2: And a leather belt around his waist.

Narrator 3: He ate locusts and wild honey.

Narrator 4: People from all over Jerusalem and Judea came to
hear John preach.

Narrator 1: The people came to be baptized in the Jordan River.

Narrator 2: They asked for forgiveness for their sins.

Narrator 3: But John had an important message for the people.

Narrator 4: He told them about Jesus.

John: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy
to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals" (Mark 1:7).

Narrator 1: John also said to the people:

John: "I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with
the holy Spirit" (Mark 1:8).

Narrator 2: Jesus would soon come to be baptized by John.

Narrator 3: Jesus' baptism would be different from the others'.

Narrator 4: He would have a new way of baptism, with the Holy Spirit instead of only with water.

Narrator 1: But it was not yet time for Jesus to visit John in the desert.

Narrator 2: And so John continued to preach about the repentance of sins.

Narrator 3: John continued to baptize people in the Jordan River . . .

Narrator 4: And to tell the people: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Advent



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Why do I hope for the coming
of Jesus?

Mini-Task

During the season of Advent, we get ready for Jesus. We wait for Jesus to bring hope to the world.

Remember what you learned and experienced in this lesson about the season of Advent. In the space below, write three clues about Advent. You can use words or pictures as your clues.

Clue 1:

Clue 2:

Clue 3:

Answer: Advent

Test your clues on a friend. Can your friend guess the answer with the clues you made? Combine these clues with any other Church year clues you have already written to make a guessing game.



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

At Home

Talk about the ways your family prepares or gets ready to do something, like go on a trip, leave for school or work, or start a project. What is something you and your family could do together to get ready for Jesus?

How did the Son of God
enter human history?

Lesson 25

Christmas

*"Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this
thing that has taken place, which the
Lord has made known to us." Luke 2:15*

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Gathering Prayer

Leader: The joy of Christmas is like no other. At this time of the year, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, born of Mary, his mother. We should keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts all year, as we always should welcome the love of Jesus into our hearts! Let us pray that Christ will be born in our hearts:

Be born in our hearts, O Christ in us.

All: Be born in our hearts, O Christ in us.

Leader: Be born in our world, O Christ in us.

All: Be born in our world, O Christ in us.

Leader: Be born in our Church, O Christ in us.

All: Be born in our Church, O Christ in us.

Leader: Be born in our families, O Christ in us.

All: Be born in our families, O Christ in us.

Leader: Be born in our friends, O Christ in us.

All: Be born in our friends, O Christ in us.

Leader: Be born in our hearts, O Christ in us.

All: Be born in our hearts, O Christ in us.

Activity

In the heart, write one thing you can do to show your family, your friends, and the world that Christ has been born in you.



We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Jesus came to save all people from sin. He was born to show us the Father's love.

The events of Christmas show that Jesus came for everyone. Angels announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds. Shepherds were ordinary people. Yet they were the first to hear the news that Christ was born.

The Gospel also tells us that a star appeared in the sky when Jesus was born. Magi from faraway lands saw the star and followed it to find Jesus. They traveled a long way to see Jesus. The birth of Jesus was good news for them, too.

The birth of Jesus is a sign of hope. We have hope because Jesus came to save us. The Church celebrates Jesus as a sign of hope at Christmas and all year long.



Christmas

Did You Know?



The Magi followed a real star in the sky.

Activity

In groups, role-play how the shepherds and the Magi would find Jesus now. Act out what they would say to Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus when they found him.

Readers Theater

A Visit from the Magi

Matthew 2:1–12

**Roles: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3,
Magi 1, Magi 2, Priests (a group of three
or four children), Herod**

*Three Magi travel from the East to see the
newborn baby Jesus, the Messiah.*

Narrator 1: When Jesus was born, he had several visitors. Shepherds came to see him on the night of his birth.

Narrator 2: And three Magi, kings from the East, went to visit Jesus, too. They had followed a star that led them to Jerusalem.

Narrator 3: They did not know exactly where to find the baby Jesus, so the Magi went to King Herod and asked him.

Magi 1: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2).

Magi 2: "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Matthew 2:2).

Narrator 1: This greatly displeased King Herod. He did not want another king in his land.

Narrator 2: Herod called together the chief priests and scribes and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Priests: "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: '... from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel'" (Matthew 2:5–6).

Narrator 3: Herod called the Magi secretly. He sent them to Bethlehem and said:

Herod: "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage" (Matthew 2:8).

Narrator 1: After speaking with King Herod, the Magi set out to find Jesus.

Narrator 2: And behold, the star that they had seen earlier appeared again and stopped over the place where the child was.

Narrator 3: The Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star. When they entered the place, they saw baby Jesus with Mary, his mother.

Narrator 1: The Magi knelt before Jesus and greeted him with honor and praise.

Narrator 2: Then they opened their treasures and offered the baby gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Narrator 3: An angel warned the Magi in a dream not to return to Herod, so they returned to their country by another way.



Mini-Task

During the season of Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus was born for everyone.

Remember what you learned and experienced in this lesson about the season of Christmas.

In the space below, write three clues about Christmas. You can use words or pictures as your clues.

Clue 1:

Clue 2:

Clue 3:

Answer:
Christmas

Test your clues on a friend. Can your friend guess the answer with the clues you made? Combine these clues with any other Church year clues you have already written to make a guessing game.



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

At Home

As a family, go outside tonight and look for stars or other bright lights in the sky. Talk about what you would do if you had seen the Star of Bethlehem. How would you feel?