

Object Lesson: Candles

We are going to talk about Candles and how we use them during Advent. One way we use candles in Advent is to count the weeks in the season. We put three purple and one pink candle around an Advent wreath. The first week we light the first purple candle to mark the start of the first week of Advent. Next week we add the second purple candle. In the third week, we light the pink candle, which signifies joy. In the fourth week we light the last purple candle. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we light a white candle, called the Christ Candle, in the middle of the wreath.

We use candles in other places, too, during this time of year. As you go around your neighborhood during this season, you might also see that people have put candles in their windows. And lots of churches have candlelight services on Christmas Eve.

Candles are such an important part of this time of year because they remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. He is coming at Christmas to rid the earth of the darkness of sin and death and shine on us with his love and forgiveness.

Take some time this week to light a candle with the help of your parents, maybe at dinnertime or before you go to bed at night. Turn out all the other lights in the room and watch how the light of one little candle's flame can light up a whole room. That's what Jesus does in our lives through his birth. His light spreads to all corners of our lives, so that we never have to be afraid of anything. Then say this prayer, "Jesus, thank you for being the light of MY world. Amen."

