

Set out the Advent Wreath and the Nativity characters in the brown bag. Purple cloth.

**(1. Dismissal from the Assembly)**

**2. Light the 1<sup>st</sup> candle on the Advent wreath.**

**3. The Advent Wreath Song**

**#17 “Sing with Joy”**

Sitting with my brothers,  
Sitting with my sisters,  
Sitting by the Advent wreath....

Waiting with my brothers,  
Waiting with my sisters,  
Waiting by the Advent wreath....

Why are you waiting, boys?  
Why are you waiting, girls?  
Who are you waiting for?

(All stand) Stand up and sing!  
    He is the King!  
    He is the Lord of Lords!  
    That’s who we’re waiting for.  
    That’s who we’re waiting for.

**4. Proclamation of the Gospel** (Green children’s lectionary, page 3 Mark 13:33-37)

Jesus said to his disciples, “Always be ready! Stay awake. You do not know when the special time will come. Think about someone going on a long trip. Before leaving, the owner of the house puts the servants in charge of everything and gives each one a special task. One servant is told to guard the door very carefully. “Pay attention! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming back. It may be in the evening, at midnight or early in the morning. Do not let the owner come home suddenly and find you asleep. What I am saying to you, I say to everyone: Pay attention! Be ready!”

**5. Reflection time:** Explain to the children that the gospel story is telling us that we must be ready to help Jesus do God's work every day. We need to **watch for the times when we can help.**

1. Why is Jesus asking us to stay awake? Does he mean we shouldn't go to bed at night?  
(No. He means we should watch for times that we can show Him how much we love Him by helping others.)
2. Jesus has given each of us our work to do in this world. What is your work for him now? (Pray, help out at home, be a good friend, share, etc.)
3. What kind of work do you hope to do for him when you grow up?
4. What are sometimes that you can think of when it's hard to be ready to help Jesus? (When I'm in a bad mood, tired, hungry, don't want to share my things, don't like the other person, someone is mean to me, etc.)
5. What can you do at those times to try to "Stay Awake?" (Pray, remind yourself that you're a child of God, think about Jesus, etc.)
6. Who knows how many weeks there are until Christmas? (4)
7. Starting today, for the next 4 weeks we will be in the time called Advent Let's all say that word . (have them repeat the word Advent.)
8. And this wreath with the 4 candles is called the Advent Wreath.. Let's all say Advent Wreath. (Repeat)
9. Today we just lit one candle, because it's the first week. Next week we will light how many? (2)
10. In Advent we are getting ready for Jesus to come at Christmas. What can we do to get ready? (Be good, help out, clean up, etc.)

## **6. Celebration of the gospel message**

Let the children act out the gospel: the owner says goodbye, he is going on a trip, take care of things while he is gone. Stay awake and don't forget to do your job while I am gone.

All the others say "okay, we promise that we will" and wave goodbye. Then another child gets to be the owner, etc.

## **7. Creed (Note: Larger font version of this creed on separate sheet in the notebook.)**

(Leader asks question. Children respond "Yes, I do.")

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| 1) Do you believe in God the Father; who created everything?   | Yes, I do. |
| 2) Do you believe in Jesus His Son, who came from the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary?                         | Yes, I do. |
| 3) Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to save us?   | Yes, I do. |
| 4) Do you believe God raised Jesus from the dead on Easter?  | Yes, I do. |
| 5) Do you believe that Jesus will come again, and we will all be raised from the dead, and God's kingdom will have no end? | Yes, I do. |

**8. General Intercessions:** Pass the lamb around the group, mentioning that this represents the animals who were there to welcome Jesus when he was born. Each child may offer a petition and then pass it on, or just pass it on if they don't have a petition.

**9. Closing prayer** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Lord, Jesus. Help us to always be ready for you! Hail Mary, full of grace, ...(pray the Hail Mary very slowly and the children will join in on the words they know.) In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

10. Return to the Assembly **with a handout to take home**