



Sunday Gospel Background

The beginning of Advent is also the beginning of the Church's year, or the Liturgical Year. In the Gospel, Jesus tells of a man who leaves his servants in charge while he travels. Jesus reminds us to follow his way and do all we are called to do as we wait for him to come again. We might compare it to household chores or homework. If we leave things to the last minute, we might be caught off guard. Some people even make "spiritual New Year's resolutions," to follow Jesus' teachings more faithfully and not put them off.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together:** (If you have an Advent wreath, light the first candle. If not, any candle will do.) "Jesus, we are getting ready to celebrate your birthday at Christmas. We know you came to be with us because you love us. We love you too. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Make Advent Holy (page 1)** *Advent* means "coming." During the four weeks of Advent, we wait for the anniversary of Jesus' coming at Christmas.

Look at the cover of *Good News* and invite your child to say what is the same and different about this and other calendars. Point out how each Sunday has more candles. **Ask:** What do the pictures remind you of? *Christmas*.

Read the directions at the top of the page together. Use the code on page 2 to write names of those your child wants to pray for. Your child can cut out the strip on page 2 and you can tape it on the side of the calendar. Keep the calendar in a prominent place in your home as a reminder to pray.

- Bible Story • Isaiah Tells About God's Love (page 2)** The beauty of his language and the hope in his message make Isaiah the prophet most people recognize. Read aloud this feature with your child. **Ask:** What messages did Isaiah give the people? *God is with us. God is faithful. Don't give up hope. God cares about us.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Will Come Again (page 3)** Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about being ready for him. Proclaim the Gospel by dividing up the parts between you and your child.
- Discuss the *Know* question related to the Gospel.** Help your child understand that we can be ready by being kind to others and by doing Works of Mercy. Think of times recently when you've asked your child to cooperate with your family—doing chores, pitching in to help, etc. Use these as examples of ways your child can be ready.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read "We Wait and Hope." Explain that our getting ready during Advent isn't only for celebrating Jesus' birthday at Christmas. Advent is also a time to focus on being ready for whenever Jesus comes again. Refer back to the last thing Jesus says in the Gospel.
- Catholic Faith Word • Advent (page 4)** Help your child understand that *Advent*, the weeks leading up to Christmas, is a time of getting ready for the celebration of Christmas and for Jesus' Second Coming at the end of time.

Note: there are two separate topics covered this week in the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook. You can choose to address them on separate occasions if you want.

Good News

November 29, 2020 • 1st Sunday of Advent

Lesson Theme: We prepare for Jesus' coming.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to the inside back cover (page 57). Give your child a moment to look over the page. Explain that this is a model of the Church Year. **Ask:** Does the Church Year begin on January 1? *No—First Sunday of Advent.* **Ask:** Is the Church Year divided into months? *No—seasons.* Have your child find the Advent arrow and read the paragraph about the Advent season. Explain that each liturgical season has its own color. Advent's color of violet is for waiting and hoping. Have your child color the Advent wedge violet (purple).

You can also talk about Church teaching on Jesus' Second Coming. Have your child turn to page 6 in the handbook. **Ask:** What is the name of the prayer these words in green come from? *Apostles' Creed.* A *creed* is a statement of what we believe. Then turn to page 11 and read the words next to the third blue diamond. Point out that "there" is Heaven. **Ask:** What happens after a person dies? *We are judged on how well we followed God, how we loved.* Read aloud the questions in the first paragraph of that section. The Church calls this the individual (or particular) judgment. Depending on how we have lived, we will go to Heaven, Purgatory, or Hell. Heaven and Hell are forever, but Purgatory is a "stop" on the way to Heaven. **Ask:** What do we call Jesus' coming again at the end of time? *Second Coming.* **Ask:** Will we be alive on earth when this happens? *Nobody knows. Jesus tells us to be ready. At the end of the world, there will be a general judgment when the loving and unloving actions of all people will be shown (revealed).*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, pages 3-4.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • My Advent Booklet (pages 3-4)** Help your child separate pages 1-2 from 3-4. Then fold on the dotted line to make the booklet. Read aloud the cover copy. Have your child fill in their name and color the flame of one violet candle. Look at page 2 of the booklet and note the Gospel. Remind your child about ways to be ready for Jesus' coming. Read the poem on page 3 together, inviting your child to guess what letter is missing in each line. **Answers:** 1-A, 2-D, 3-V, 4-E, 5-N, 6-T = *Advent.* Then brainstorm possible Advent practices for this week. Give your child time to write one practice in the space on page 3.
- **Closing Prayer** Turn to the Family Forgiveness Prayer on Page 4. Explain that some important ways we get ready for Jesus are to ask for forgiveness if we have done wrong and to give forgiveness to someone who has hurt us. Say the prayer with your family.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture