

Sunday Gospel Background

This Sunday, the Church begins preparing for the feast of Christmas, the celebration of God becoming human. Advent also calls us to prepare for Jesus' coming in glory at the end of time. Being ready for Christ's Second Coming is the theme of Sunday's Gospel.

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. Come, Jesus, our brother. Amen."
- Story • I Can Wait** Tell your child that you know a story about a girl who was getting ready for a new baby to come to their family.

Kimberly knew her mom was going to have a baby. While they were waiting, the whole family got ready. Dad painted the little room by the kitchen for the baby to sleep in. Mom got out the clothes Kimberly had worn when she was a baby. One Sunday, a lot of people came to Kimberly's house and brought presents for the baby who was coming. Kimberly was so excited. Her Aunt Laura brought a present for the baby and one for Kimberly too.

One morning when Kimberly woke up and went into the kitchen, she saw her mom's suitcase. "It is time for me to go to the hospital," her mom told Kimberly. "Grandma is here to stay with you today."

Kimberly liked Grandma because they did fun things together. Grandma stayed all day and read stories to Kimberly

before she went to sleep that night. "When is Mom coming home?" Kimberly asked. "Soon," Grandma said. "As soon as the baby comes."

The next morning when Kimberly woke up, Grandma said, "I have a surprise for you. Can you guess what it is?" "It's a baby!" Kimberly shouted. Grandma said, "You have a little brother named Joshua."

"Oh, I'm so glad to have a baby brother. I've never had a baby brother! When can I see him?" asked Kimberly.

"As soon as we eat breakfast," Grandma said.

When they got to the hospital, Kimberly got to hold her new baby brother, Joshua, for the first time. "We are all ready for you," Kimberly told Joshua and kissed him on his fuzzy head.

Ask: What was Kimberly waiting for? How did the family get ready? Did Kimberly think waiting was worth it?

- Activity • Advent is a time of getting ready for Jesus. (page 1)** Read the words in the top part of the candle. Show your child how to color one flame on one of the candles. **Say:** We call the weeks before Christmas Advent. This is a time of getting ready for Jesus. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. We can count down the days until Christmas by crossing off each day on a calendar. We can also use an Advent wreath. Count the candles on the wreath. There is one candle for each Sunday of Advent. We light a new candle each week.

Look at the instructions for folding the candle on page 2. Each Sunday of Advent, have your child color a section of the wreath, and follow the instructions for folding. Your child can also cross out the days on the cover calendar.



Discover Gospel and Doctrine

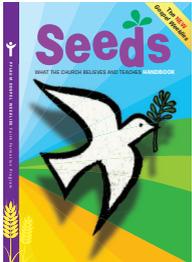
- **Sunday Gospel • Everyone is waiting for Jesus.** Present the Gospel by explaining that Jesus knew he would not be with his friends forever, but that he would return one day.

Jesus told his friends that he would go away soon, but that he would come again. His friends wanted to know when he would come back.

He said: "Get ready! You do not know when I will come again. Only my Father in Heaven knows. It will be like a man

who puts his servants in charge when he goes on a trip. He gives them work to do. He tells them to always be ready for him to come home. Do not let me find you sleeping when you should be working. You should always be prepared for me by living the way that I have taught you."

Ask: How can you be prepared for Jesus to come? *Loving actions.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 12. Show your child the Advent wreath illustration. **Ask:** Do you remember what this is called? Explain that we get our hearts ready for Jesus during Advent by being kind to others.

Have your child complete the words Advent and Christmas on the page. Point out these words to your child whenever you see them during the season.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds, page 2.

- **Word of the Week • Church Year (page 2)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: *The Church Year helps us remember and celebrate Jesus' life.* Explain that the Church has a special calendar and that it begins with the First Sunday of Advent, which we celebrate this Sunday. Say: "Happy New Church Year!"

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • We get ready at home. We get ready at church. (pages 3-4)** Look at the family on page 3. **Ask:** How is this family getting ready for Christmas? How do we get ready for Christmas at our house? Together, count the four candles on the Advent wreath. Point out that only one is lit, for the first Sunday of Advent. Look at the church on page 4. **Ask:** How is the parish getting ready for Christmas? Explain that the tree is called a Jesse Tree. It has ornaments that stand for all the people who waited for Jesus to come: King David (crown), Joseph (colored coat), Mary (rose), Adam and Eve (two people).
- **Activity • A Getting-Ready Puzzle (pages 3-4)** Follow the directions on page 2 for cutting pages 3-4 apart to make the puzzle. Have your child take the four strips, mix them up, and then put them back together again.
- **Closing Prayer** Repeat: "Come, Jesus, our brother," together after each line of the prayer: Come, Jesus, our brother. / Help us get ready for your birthday. / We love you. / Amen.



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