



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" at this time of year, 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.

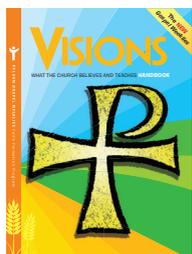
- Pray together** (If you have an Advent wreath, light the first violet candle. If you don't have an Advent wreath, any candle will do.) Invite your child to focus on the candle as you **pray**: Loving God, our Advent preparations can bring out the best in us and in others. Help us see the wonder and beauty around us and in each other. Bless us with compassion for those who need our help. Help us remember we live in your hands—from the beginning to the end of time. Amen.
- Cover Activity • How Do You Get Ready in Advent? (page 1)** Invite your child to spend time looking at the cover. Talk about the signs you see of Advent preparations in your community: *Some examples: Christmas trees and other decor, Nativity scenes, candles and stars, Christmas postage stamps.*
- Article • This Was No Dream (pages 2-3)** Look at the four photos that show the destruction in the path of a tornado. Caitlin McCord, a 16-year-old girl, tells her story of being in a tornado. Read the article aloud together, switching the reading at the bold text.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. The neighbors stay together to watch for the storm. Derrell and Chase warn everyone to take cover. Neighbors recover lost items. Those who are not hurt physically help those who are. Family and friends take the injured into their homes. 2. She came so close to death. Open-ended. 3. Calling, carrying her when she didn't have shoes, recovering her phone, cleaning her up, nursing her back to health, providing her a place to live. Open-ended. 4. Open-ended. 5. Open-ended; talk about your family's emergency supplies or plans. This is not meant to cause fear or anxiety, but to reassure your child that your family has a preparedness plan.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Says, "Be Alert!" (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by reading the various parts: Narrator and Jesus 1, 2, and 3.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. No one knows when Jesus will come again. 2. Through people's kind words and actions, the sacraments and celebrations like Christmas, ways people work for justice, and the Gospel. Open-ended. 3. We can be ready by loving and forgiving each other, sharing what we have, working for justice, living as Jesus lived, and doing the Works of Mercy. 4. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • How Do You Use Your Time? (page 4)** Advent often feels like a huge rush—quite unlike the peaceful, contemplative time the Church intends. Take this opportunity to talk about how you both spend your time.



- **Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Set an example by sharing some ways you will make better use of your time this week. You might write down your ideas and have your child do the same. You might even keep logs of how many hours/minutes you and your child spend doing different activities, such as work, study, Internet, sleep, preparing meals, etc. 2. Encourage your child to share time with others.*
- **Catholic Faith Word • Advent (page 4)** Read this definition aloud to introduce the season we enter into this week.



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 20.** Focus on section 2: The Calendar of Worship. Review the list of the Church's primary feast days, both as they relate to the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus and to the life of Mary, his mother. **Ask:** Why do you think these dates are so important to Catholics?

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Visions, page 5.

- **Our Catholic Faith • Advent Invites Catholics to Prepare for Christmas (page 5)** Advent means "coming." Read aloud the first paragraph on page 5, which stresses Jesus' final coming in glory. Have your child read the rest of the feature and the Q and A column. Together, brainstorm any needs you have noticed and have your child record them on the lines provided.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Advent Prepares Us to Celebrate Christmas (pages 6-7)** Look at the calendar together. Point out the spaces that were left blank so your child can add some additional personal activities. You might look ahead to see how you might put on the Exile play or the Our Lady of Guadalupe play in the December 6 lesson (2nd Sunday of Advent) as a family project. Invite your child to display the calendar in your home as a reminder to do the activities.
- **Closing Prayer • How Will You Bring the Light of Christ to Others? (page 8)** Gather around your Advent wreath, or a single candle. Turn down the lights, if possible. Light the candle. If you have an Advent wreath, light one violet candle. Read the Advent prayer and wreath blessing together. Pause near the end so that you can think about your Advent commitments.

After the prayer, invite your child to write ways to share Advent light on the lines at the bottom of the page. Encourage your child to refer to this commitment often during the next three weeks.



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