

## Advent: A time of waiting!

*For the four Sundays in Advent our resources will be a little different from usual as they help us to get ready for Christmas!*



I wonder how you will be spending these last few weeks before Christmas? Are you busy dreaming of the presents you would like or waiting eagerly to start opening your advent calendar or looking forward to eating all those yummy Christmas chocolates and treats?

People were waiting for Jesus to arrive for a long time. Not just days and months but years and centuries (do you know how many days are in a year and how many years are in a century?). Jesus was a special baby. He was God's son sent to earth to show how much God loved us. He did this by teaching us about God and allowing himself to be punished for all the wrong things that we have done (we remember this at Easter).

Jesus was very special and, because people had been waiting for his arrival for such a long time, that made his birth at Christmas extra special. When we have to wait for Christmas to arrive during Advent it gives us a chance to remember exactly how special Jesus is!

So here are some ideas to think about this week:

Read Isaiah 9 verses 2 & 6

- What do you think the "light" that the people have seen is?
- How do you think the earth is in "darkness"? Can you give examples?
- Who is the 'child' in verse 6?
- When you think about Jesus being born, do you just think of the baby, or do you think about the things He did - and still does?

Read Luke 1:26-38 in the Bible or in a children's Bible story book read about the angel appearing to Mary:

- What did the Angel tell Mary about her child?
- How do you think Mary and Joseph felt while they were waiting for Jesus to be born?
- How do you think they prepared to have God's son living with them?
- Every Christmas we celebrate Jesus' birth. Do you think we should make preparations for it during Advent?

## Jesus in our hearts:

Advent is a time for us to prepare for Christmas, and particularly for us to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. There is a Christmas carol that has the line; 'Let every heart prepare Him room.'

Advent is the time to think about making room for Jesus in our hearts, as well as getting ready this Christmas to celebrate Jesus coming to earth as a baby. Think about what this means for you, do you want to make room in your heart for Jesus this Advent and put him first in all your preparations? Maybe cut a heart out of card to remind you and then pray together.

## Advent Wreaths

Here is a video from Scripture Union all about Advent:

<https://youtu.be/QxbTW5GsEKU>

Perhaps you could make an Advent wreath at home? As you light the first candle (HOPE) this week pray for people you know who are sad or unwell.

## Jesse Tree

A Jesse tree is a traditional Advent craft which is based on Isaiah 11:1 - *"The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants."* The Jesse tree is a reminder of the things God has done and how Jesus changed the world.

The idea is you hang small pictures or items on a tree or a branch that will remind you of why Jesus came to the earth. So, you could draw a cross to show that Jesus came to die, a pair of eyes to show that He gave sight to the blind, a pair of crutches to remind you of His healings, a bright yellow sun to show that He brought light, and so on.

Or there is a lovely version at Flame Creative Kids that you can print off, cut out and colour in each day of Advent (or just look at for some ideas!):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/OBORweH-3RyIOTGd1V25udFICVnc/view>

If you would like me to print you a copy, please get in touch with me:

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