

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?

Here is a video from Helen: <https://youtu.be/qWN1IBW-eLI>

A long, long time ago God promised to send a special person - someone who was going to save the world. People were waiting for him to arrive for a long time. Not just days and months but years and years and years! The special person was Jesus! He was God's son sent to earth to show how much God loves us. Jesus was coming to do a very special job - he was coming to put lots of things right and make it possible for God's people to live with him forever.

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 it gives us a chance to remember exactly how special Jesus is!

So here are some ideas to think about this week:

Read the story of the angel coming to Mary to tell her about having God's baby in a children's Bible story book or in Luke 1:26-38.

- I wonder what surprises you most about this story?
- What did the angel say to Mary?
- How do you think Mary felt when she heard what the angel said?

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 either with real candles, or LED candles or a paper plate version. As you light or stick on the first candle (HOPE) this week pray for people you know who are sad or unwell.

Angels

I wonder what you think the angel that spoke to Mary looked like? Or the one that Joseph saw in his dream?

Maybe you could draw or paint a picture of an angel.

Or you could make an angel out of a cardboard tube or a paper cup or yoghurt carton or even a spoon! Here are a few ideas:



Heart prayers:

As we think about this story and waiting - Mary and Joseph waiting for the baby to arrive and as we wait for Christmas - it's a good time to think about our hearts.

Are we going to think about Jesus as we get ready for Christmas?

Is there room in our hearts for him?

You might like to cut a heart shape out of card or paper to hold as you pray and to remind you to keep thinking about Jesus as you get ready for Christmas.

"Thank you, Jesus, that you came to the earth. Thank you that you did so many amazing miracles. Thank you that you died on a cross so that we could be your friend. Please help us to keep you in our hearts as we get ready for Christmas! Amen."

