

Advent

They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30)

Pre Session Warm Up

Wishes, Hopes and Dreams....

What sorts of things do you look forward to in the future? Are there things that you are hoping for or wishing for? [Teacher, write the children's responses on the board. Suggestions: Snow, participating in winter sports, being out of school for the holidays, birthdays, Christmas...]

Think of things other than gifts you want to receive, such as what job you'd like to have one day. Or, think of something you'd like to learn how to do such as play a musical instrument or learn a sport.

How does it feel to have to wait for wishes, hopes, or dreams to come true? (*Exciting, frustrating, frightening, discouraging*)

Experiment: You will need a kitchen timer, a piece of candy (or some other tantalizing goodie) for each child, and the verses that follow taped to four pieces of candy. Say, "When this timer rings, I will give each of you a piece of candy. I am going to set the timer for 2 minutes. During those 2 minutes I will write down words that you call out that describe your feelings as you wait to get your candy." When the timer rings, pass out the candy. Ask the four children whose candy has an attached scripture to read their verse to the class. Describe how we look forward to Jesus' return using all of the words the children called out that are suitable (i.e., excited, curious, anxious, etc.)

After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. (John 14:3)

The Lord himself will come down from heaven. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. (Revelation 21:4)

Listen! I am coming soon! (Revelation 22:7)

Think about how God's people might have felt while waiting for the Savior to be born. How do you think they kept from being discouraged? (*Prayed for patience, studied God's Word, lived God's way.*)

Getting ready is an important part of waiting. What would be a good thing for you to do while you're waiting for your wishes, hopes and dreams to come true?

Opening Prayer

Father, as we anticipate Christmas, I pray that we will not forget the reason we celebrate. You promised that you would send a Savior who would rescue us from the penalty of sin. And, You did! Now we look forward to Jesus coming back again and taking us to heaven to be with Him forever. Help us not to waste time as we wait for His return. Cause us to prepare our hearts by living in such a way that is pleasing to You, Father. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30)

Lesson

The Promised Messiah

The first promise of a Redeemer was made in paradise after the fall of Adam and Eve. In the beginning, God created a perfect world and He was very satisfied with everything.

Advent

Genesis 1:31

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

When Adam and Eve sinned, our holy God was saddened. His perfect creation was ruined. Immediately after that first sin, God made a promise that he would send a Savior (Genesis 3:15). He told Adam and Eve that they would some day have an offspring that would crush Satan. God was referring to Jesus.

The second promise is found in the story of Abraham, when he was chosen as the father of a new nation. God promised Abraham that in him and his descendants all the world would be blessed.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord had said to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you. And in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

From the time of this promise to Abram, people expected a Savior to come who would govern a kingdom of God on earth among the Children of Israel.

The third promise was made many hundred's of years later. After Moses led the Children of Israel to the Promised Land, God passed the promise on to David who was of the family of Abraham.

2 Samuel 7:12-13

When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Here God was telling David that the Savior would come from his offspring.

The fourth promise was made to Mary who was from David's family.

Luke 1:30-33

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

Everyone in the world — including you and me — is born a sinner and needs to be saved. God knew we would need a Savior right from the beginning. That's why He made the promise to Adam and Eve, Abraham, David, and Mary.

God was faithful to His promise. He sent Jesus in human form, born as a baby in Bethlehem. He lived a sinless life and experienced a savage death by being nailed to a cross. Because Jesus gave His blood when He died on the cross, we can be forgiven and saved from the punishment for sin.

Now we look forward to the fulfillment of God's other promises. He will come back to get us and take us to the place that he went away to prepare for us. We can count on Him being faithful to His Word. Meanwhile we should prepare ourselves for His coming.

Advent

Advent means coming. The Advent season begins on the first of December and ends on Christmas Eve. It is a time of preparation before Christmas when Christians focus their attention on what the coming of Christ means for them. What would be the best way for you to get ready for Christmas? [Teacher, let the children respond.]

Closing Prayer

Father, it is so exciting to think that any day now Jesus could come in great power and glory to get us! We look forward to that day with the same anticipation that we wait for Christmas. But Lord, we don't want You to catch us doing something ungodly on the day that you return. Cause us to keep our minds and hearts centered on the things of God, not on the things of this world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Advent Bags

Make an angel bag filled with good news!

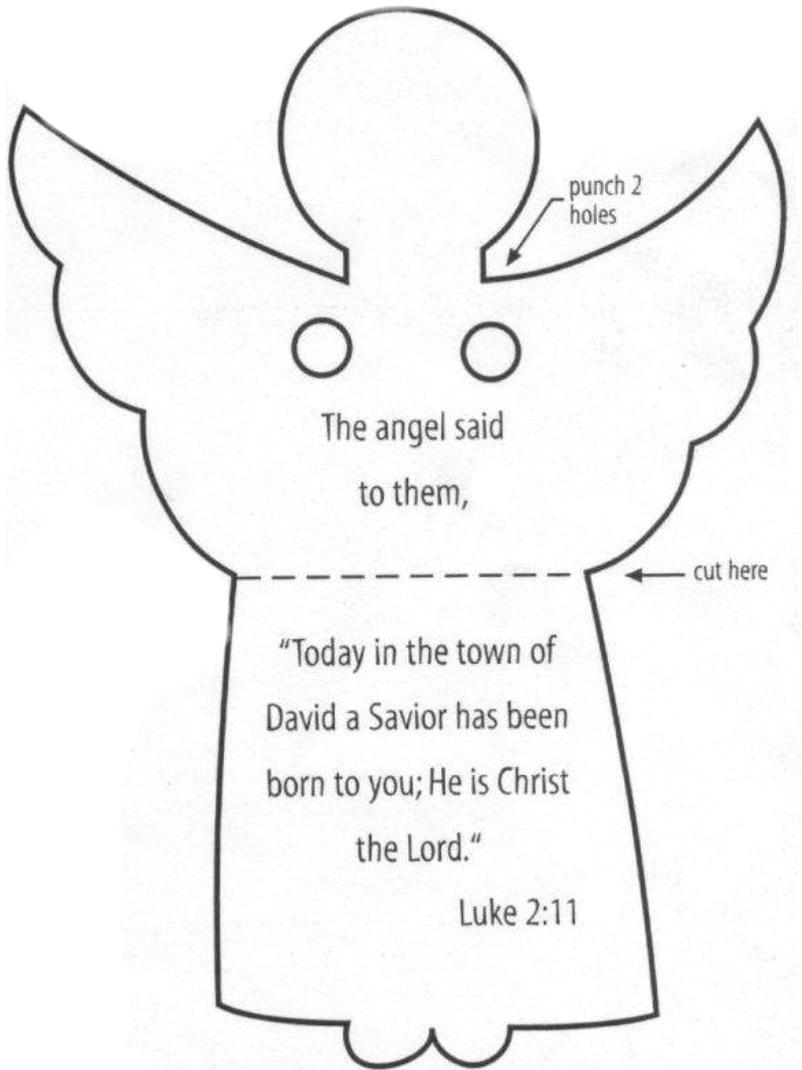
Procedures:

1. Cut out the list of Bible reference listed on the next page and glue them on front of lunch bag.
2. Trace the angel pictured on the next page on yellow card stock and cut it out. Cut the angel apart on dotted line.
3. Fold the top of the bag down 2 inches.
4. Glue the top of the angel on the folded section and bottom part to the bag as shown.



5. Punch 2 holes through all the layers of the bag.
6. Print on the angel: The angel said to them, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11
7. Lace yarn through holes and tie in a bow.
8. Inside the bag put 25 1" x 8" slips of red and green construction paper.
9. On the back of the sack glue the following instructions for the Advent Bag:

There's one Bible verse for every day of Advent. After reading a verse, remove a paper strip from the sack and tape the ends together. Add a slip to the chain each day you read the Bible together. (Optional: before connecting a strip, write "Glory to God" on it with a glitter marker.) You may use the chain as a decorative reminder that Jesus is the reason for the season.



Read about a different Bible character visited by an angel. (Underlined references are the angel’s message.)

Week 1 – Zechariah	Week 3 – Joseph
Dec 1. Luke 1:5, 7 Dec 2. Luke 1:8-9 Dec 3. Luke 1:10 Dec 4. Luke 1:11-12 Dec 5. <u>Luke 1:13-17</u> Dec 6. Luke 1:18 Dec 7. <u>Luke 1:19-20</u>	Dec 15. Matthew 1:18 Dec 16. Matthew 1:19 Dec 17. <u>Matthew 1:20-21</u> Dec 18. Matthew 1:22-23 Dec 19. Matthew 1:24-25 Dec 20. Luke 2:1-3 Dec 21. Luke 2:4-5
Week 2 – Mary	Week 4 – Shepherds
Dec 8. Luke 1:26-27 Dec 9. Luke 1:28 Dec 10. Luke 1:29 Dec 11. <u>Luke 1:30-33</u> Dec 12. Luke 1:34 Dec 13. <u>Luke 1:35-37</u> Dec 14. Luke 1:38	Dec 22. Luke 2:6-7 Dec 23. Luke 2:8 Dec 24. Luke 2:9 Dec 25. <u>Luke 2:10-16, 20</u>

Game Center

Use the following questions as a hand out, send it home as a “take home” paper, or use in a game of your choice.

The Long Wait

In the beginning, God created a wonderful world.

1. _____ and _____ disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. But God promised a Savior who would save people everywhere from sin.
2. God told a man named _____ that the Savior would come from his family.
3. _____ led God's people out of Egypt where they had been slaves. As they traveled to the promised land, God made another promise: One day a Savior would lead God's people out of the slavery of sin.
4. Later God's people became the nation of Israel. God repeated His promise. The Savior would come through the family of King _____.

Over and over again God spoke to His people through prophets. These men reminded Israel of the coming Messiah — God's promised Savior. God's people listened and waited in hope.

5. One of the greatest prophets was a man named _____. He told Israel many things about the Messiah.

Read Isaiah 7:14.

6. Isaiah said that the Lord would send a sign when the Savior came. A virgin would have a _____ named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Isaiah promised that the Savior's birth would be like a great light that suddenly brings joy and life to people trapped in darkness.

Isaiah wrote that the Savior would come as a child and someday be a great ruler.

Read Isaiah 9:6.

7. For whom would this child be born? _____

(This meant the Jews, but the Savior also came for all of "us.")

8. Also, a prophet named Micah promised that the Savior would be born in the tiny town of _____.

At last the long wait for the Savior was coming to an end. God's great promise was about to come true.

For to us a child is born to us a son is given... (Isaiah 9:6)

*After I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back. (John 14:3)*

*The Lord himself will come down from
heaven. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)*

*He will wipe away every tear from their
eyes. There will be no more death,
sadness, crying, or pain.
(Revelation 21:4)*

*Listen! I am coming soon!
(Revelation 22:7)*