

NOVEMBER 29, 2020



Children's Message

ANTICIPATE • ADVENT 1 • YEAR B

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • **Mark 13:24-37**

Select one of these options to create a children's message to fit kids' interests and gifts and your congregation's size and sanctuary features. You can finish your time together with the prayer.

READ THE STORY

Place a bookmark on page 310 in the Whirl Story Bible. Ask kids these questions. Do you ever worry about things? (Give an example of a worry you have.) What do you worry about? (Listen with a sympathetic ear.) In today's story, Jesus's disciples are worried about many things. Listen to what Jesus tells them . . . Read "Be Ready for God's Surprise" from the Whirl Story Bible. (Trust Jesus and God that he will be back.)

SING THE SEASON

Learn one verse of "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" each week (Text and music © Geonyong Lee; tr. Marion Pope; tune Ososo, ososo). Pair it with the lighting of the Advent wreath, or gather the children around the wreath for the singing of this song.

SEE THE STORY

Look for depictions of the sun, moon, and stars in the worship space. God created these lights of the heavens. Look for images of Jesus with his disciples. This is what Jesus promises will happen again—he and God will be with us.

SEE THE SEASON

Seasons change in nature—talk about color changes. What color change has happened at church? (Note: If at all possible, include the children in the changing of the colors—even if it is just one parament; work at it together.)

Advent is a terrific season to decorate in stages. Add blue paraments, Christmas trees, lights, and decorations gradually through the season. Talk about what each of the Advent wreath candles mean.

EPISTLE EXPLORATION

Paul's letter begins by giving thanks for the people he is writing to. Many people will have just celebrated Thanksgiving and kids will be in tune with the concept of giving thanks. Name things to be thankful for in your church . . . people who love kids, great music, nice treats, Sunday school teachers, prayers, etc.

WONDER ABOUT THE SEASON

Set up a nativity set in the worship space as a "Wandering Nativity" for the Advent season. Make a "Bethlehem" somewhere with a few animals near the stable, and the remaining characters all over the worship space. Mary and Joseph might be in a window, the sheep in the choir loft, the angel in the balcony, etc. The wise men should be somewhere else in the building. Call the children forward to see who is in Bethlehem, and wonder where everyone else is. Encourage them to search—either with their eyes or by walking around together.

PRAYER

Hold hands around the Advent wreath and give thanks for light in the darkness, the season of Advent, and the stories that lead us to Christmas.

