



# **THE WORDS OF ADVENT**

A children's message series  
celebrating the season of Advent

# Guide for Presenters

The following is a 5-week children's message series for the season of Advent. In traditional Christian circles the liturgical process of Advent includes the lighting of 4 candles and one Christ candle and each corresponds with a word- the order varies from tradition to tradition, but the four words are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The following series walks children through the season of Advent using these four words to show the reason we celebrate. Each message follows the same format of:

- Introduction to the word of Advent
- Explanation of word through example
- Bible reading connecting to the text
- Prayer
- Blessing

\*The blessing is a call and response for the children and the congregation. The prayer and blessing can be modified to fit your congregation.

## **Here is a list of materials you would need for each week:**

Introduction and Hope: N/A

Peace: Bullhorn/siren, peaceful noise (baby white noise maker)

Joy: N/A

Love: candy or other sweet

Christmas Day: paper chain

Enjoy walking through the season of Advent with the children in your congregation this year!

Blessings to you!

# Week 1- Introduction and Hope

## Introduction

We are celebrating a special season at church- it is called Advent! Advent is a time of waiting. We remember God's people long ago waiting for a Messiah. And we as God's people today wait for Jesus to make all things new. During Advent we light special candles to help us remember those things. Each candle has a special word that goes along with it. There are 4 candles so that is 4 special words. There is also one special white candle that we light on Christmas. Over the next few weeks we are going to talk about each of those special words and what they mean.

## Hope

Can you guess what today's Advent word is? Starts with H; then an O. Then a P; then an E. Hope!

How many of you have hoped for something? Like you hoped that your mom or dad would get you a really awesome Christmas present. Or you hoped the bell at school would ring so you could go home. Hoping is like waiting. You are waiting sometimes a long time for something to happen.

During Advent we talk a lot about hope. We talk about God's people long ago hoping for a Saviour to save them. And they had to wait a long time for Jesus to be born. And today we hope for Jesus to one day make all things new!

Waiting can be really hard, but Jesus gives us hope.

Our Bible says this about hope in 1 Peter

"Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us a new birth and a living hope."

Let's pray together:

Dear God, thank you for this first Sunday in Advent. It is so good to be here together waiting and hoping. We ask that you help us to focus on you this season and find our hope in you! We love you! Amen!

## Blessing:

The hope of the Lord be with you! (*children say*)

And also, with you! (*congregation respond*)

## Week 2- Peace

### Peace

Can you guess what today's Advent word is? Starts with a P. Peace!

Now I am going to play you a sound and you tell me if it is peaceful. (*Play siren on bullhorn*) No that wasn't peaceful. That was loud and crazy. Imagine trying to go to sleep with that noise going.

Sometimes our world can feel like that loud noise. Lots of things happening, people shouting, people fighting. That is not peaceful.

But at Christmastime God sent the Prince of Peace: Jesus. Jesus brings calmness and peace when our hearts are worried and everything around us seems to be really loud. So that loud noise will fade away and it sounds more like this. (*Play rain falling quietly*)

Our Bible says this about peace in the book of Philippians  
Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus.

Let's pray together:

Dear God, Thank you for today this second Sunday in Advent. It is so good to be together with your people here at church. We want to thank you today for sending the Prince of Peace, Jesus, to this earth to bring us peace in our loud and sad world. Help us to spread that peace to those who need it this week. We love you! Amen!

### Blessing:

The peace of the Lord be with you. (*children say*)

And also, with you. (*congregation respond*)

## Week 3- Joy

### Joy

Can you guess what today's Advent word is? Starts with a J and rhymes with toy. Joy!

How many of you ever get excited? Maybe your grandparents are coming to visit or it's your birthday. The word joy means to be really excited; so excited, in fact, you cannot keep it on the inside.

Let's practice being joyful for a minute. Stand up and when I say, "Go," wave your hands in the air and jump up and down and say something that makes you excited for Christmastime. Ready, Go!

Wow! You were all really joyful! And at Christmastime we have a reason to be especially joyful, because God sent Jesus to be our Saviour! That is one joyful occasion! And it's our job to share that really joyful news with those around us.

In our Bible it says about the joy when Jesus was born.

"There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great **joy** for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

Let's pray together:

Dear God, thank you for this third Sunday of Advent. It is so good to be here with everybody from the little babies to the grandpas and grandmas. We thank you today for the great joy that came at Christmas when Jesus was born! Joy fills our hearts just thinking about it! Help us to spread that joy in our houses and on the playground this week. We love you! Amen!

### Blessing:

The joy of the Lord be with you (*children say*)  
And also, with you. (*congregation responds*)



# Week 4- Love

## Love

Can you guess what today's Advent word is? Let me give you a hint. (*Make a heart with hands*). Love!

How many of you love candy? Yeah, me too! It's so good I could eat it for breakfast, lunch and dinner!

Today's word love can be used a lot, like saying, "I love candy." But we want to think about Jesus' love.

At Christmastime God sent Jesus not because he just felt like it or just to change things up. No, he sent Jesus because he loves his people. That's you and me! And when we feel God's love we can give that same love to others. This love is more than a love for candy; it is a love that lasts forever! So today when you are eating the candy I give you, you can remember that the candy only lasts a little while, but God's love lasts forever!

Our Bible says this about God's love in the book of Ephesians

"...we will speak the truth in **love**. So, we will grow up in every way to become the body of Christ. Christ is the head of the body. He makes the whole body grow and build itself up in **love**. Under the control of Christ, each part of the body does its work. It supports the other parts. In that way, the body is joined and held together."

Let's pray together:

Dear God, thank you for this fourth Sunday of Advent. It is so good to learn more about you with all these special people here! We thank you today for your love! Thank you for loving us so much you sent Jesus. Help us to show that love to all of our families, friends and everyone we see this week. We love you! Amen!

## Blessing:

The love of the Lord be with you! (*children say*)  
And also, with you! (*congregation responds*)

# Week 5- Christmas Day

## Christmas Day

### Christ is born, Hallelujah!

Can you guess what today's Advent word is? I tricked you; there is no Advent word today because Advent is over. It's Christmas; the time of waiting is over!

Today we can say, "Christ is born! Hallelujah!" Maybe some of you have been waiting for Christmas by creating a chain that looks like this. (hold up paper chain) And each day you have ripped off a piece of the chain and today there was no more paper to rip. Christmas is here!

At Christmastime we get to celebrate Jesus coming to earth as a little baby who would do BIG things. He is our Saviour, saving us from sin by dying on the cross. Today is a day of celebration. The Messiah we have waited so long for is born! Let's do a celebration dance together. On three, everyone break out their best "Happy, Jesus is born to save us", Christmas dance. Ready: 1,2,3!

In our Bible we read this about the first "Happy, Jesus is born to save" celebration. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end!"

Let's pray together:

Dear God, Thank you for this Christmas Day! It is so good to celebrate with everyone here that today Christ is born! Put a pep in our step today and song in our hearts, because He is born to save us! Thank you, God! Hallelujah, Christ is born! We love you! Amen!

### Blessing:

Christ is born today! (*children say*)  
Hallelujah! (*congregation responds*)