

Prestonwood KIDZ & Preteen Ministry
Family Christmas Advent Wreath

Supplies: Bible and Advent wreath

Possible Suppliers: Amazon: Vermont Christmas Company; local stores: Michaels, Hobby Lobby

Note: Each time you celebrate Advent with your family, read from your Bible to make sure your children see that you are reading God's Word.

Sunday, Dec. 2
God's Promise of a Hope
Read: Matthew 1:20–21

Ask: Does anyone know what *Advent* means?

Say: It means “coming”! This month as a family, we are going to focus on Advent and remember the coming of someone.

Ask: Do you know who that someone is? (*pause*)

Say: He is Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas, December 25. This month our family is going to celebrate with this Advent wreath.

Ask: This wreath has how many candles? (*five*)

Say: Each candle represents something special about the coming of Christ. The first candle has been called the “Candle of Hope.” Let’s say that together as a family: “Candle of Hope.” God promised the Old Testament prophets that He would send someone to deliver His people from their trouble. In the New Testament, God made a promise to a young couple named Joseph and Mary.

Ask: “Does anybody remember what that promise was?”

Say: Mary would give birth to a son. His name would be “Jesus,” and He would save His people from their sins. As we light this first candle, remember that it stands for God’s promise that Jesus would be born.

Ask: What was this candle called again?

Say: “Candle of Hope.”

Sunday, Dec. 9
God Lights the Way
Read: Matthew 2:1–2

Say: Who remembers what *Advent* means? The coming of Jesus.

Ask: What is the shape of the wreath?

Say: A circle. The circle is a symbol of eternity, forever.

Ask: If an ant started walking around on a ring, when would he come to an end?

Say: The answer is never; he would keep going forever. The Bible teaches that Jesus came so that we might have everlasting life—life that would never end.

Say: God prepared a very special light to show the way to the birthplace of Jesus.

Ask: Do you remember what that light was?

Say: The star over the stable in Bethlehem. As the second candle is lit, remember the “Candle of Light” and the star burning brightly over the Bethlehem stable.

Sunday, Dec. 16
Good News of Great Joy

Read: Luke 2:8–11

Ask: What color are the branches on our Advent wreath?

Say: Green is the symbol of life. When grass is alive and growing, it is green. The color of the Advent wreath reminds us that Christ came to give us a special and growing life.

Ask: We have lit two candles on our wreath, do you remember what they are called?

Say: That's right, the "Candle of Hope" and the "Candle of Light." Today we will light the third candle which is called the "Candle of Joy."

Say: The angel said to the shepherds while they were watching their flocks the night of Jesus' birth: "Fear not, for I bring you good news of great what? That's right, "good news of great JOY!" As we light this candle, remember that Jesus was born that He might save us! When I think of that, it fills my heart with great JOY!

Sunday, Dec. 23
God's Love

Read: John 3:16

Ask: As I light each candle, I want you to name the three candles we have already lit on our Advent wreath. *(Let the children fill in the blanks.)* "Candle of _____" (*Hope*); "Candle of _____" (*Light*); and "Candle of _____" (*Joy*)! The fourth candle I will light today/tonight is the "Candle of Love"! Our Scripture today tells us about God's love! As we light the fourth candle, remember that because of God's love for us, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born in a manger and later to die in order that we might receive everlasting life by believing in Him!

Family Reminder: Join us for Christmas Eve Services today at either campus: 1:30, 3:00, 4:30 or 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning
The Birth of Jesus

Read: Luke 2:1–20

Say: This morning we will light the final candle, which is the white "Christ Candle"! The Christ Candle reminds us that Jesus never sinned! It stands in the middle of the wreath to remind us that He should be most important in our life!

Ask: Let's review each candle as we light our Advent Wreath: "Candle of _____" (*Hope*); "Candle of _____" (*Light*); "Candle of _____" (*Joy*); "Candle of God's _____" (*Love*) and now our final candle: the Christ Candle! As a family, give each person time to pray and thank God for coming as our Savior as we celebrate this Christmas morning!