

Focus: Telling others about Jesus

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
Advent Wreath-and flames
CD: Advent CD Cycle B
Bible: The Bible for Children
Book: Stories from the Old Testament

Gathering (children sit on carpet/floor-“Criss-Cross Applesauce”)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about waiting for Jesus to come again. This week we will hear about a man who told others that Jesus was coming to teach them. Jesus was going to teach them about God and especially God's love and forgiveness.*

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Let us pray.

Loving God, Help us to get ready for the coming of Jesus.

Let all the wonderful sights and smells of this season remind us to be ready to welcome Jesus.

Amen.

Today is the 2nd week of Advent. We light the second purple candle this is the candle of Peace.

We are waiting for Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Peacefulness is a feeling of quiet in our hearts.

When we aren't planning what to do next. When we are being quiet with God.

Prayer: Loving God, thank You for the peace You give us through Jesus. May Christ's light shine in our lives, showing us the path of peace between God and all people. Help us to prepare our hearts to receive His peace. We ask in the name of your son Jesus. Amen.

Song/Movement

Hope, Peace Joy and Love, track: 1, from Advent Cycle B

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

Chorus:

I got your hope peace joy and love

The best gifts come from above

I got your hope peace joy and love

in my heart

(Repeat)

Hope is a light in the darkness,
shining brightly on Bethlehem town

The Messiah is born; he's our king
and our lord; the promise of love
we have found

Glory to god in the highest; peace
on earth and good will to all men
Take the star in the east to the
prince of peace who will someday
be coming again.

Repeat chorus 2x

An angel appeared from the heavens, bringing news to the shepherds that night.
Good tidings of joy, in the birth of a boy, born to give us forgiveness and life.
Jesus Emmanuel Savior; little baby the gift from above

He loved us so much he gave his only son, the gift of hope peace joy and love.

Repeat Chorus 4x
(Fade out early if children lose interest)

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Just like John, we are to tell others to wait for Jesus. By our actions we can show them that Jesus loves all of us and that he shows us the way to a happy life.*

Gospel Story

Play CD: Track 2-"Stay awake-Be ready" From Advent CD

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Mark.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

Read: The Bible for Children, pp. 225--Read only to "the Holy Spirit and with fire!", *The Baptism of Jesus*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion Starters:

- *What does John the Baptist announce to the people?*
- *What does John tell the people to do?*
- *How do the people get ready for the coming of Jesus?*
- *What special events do you get ready for?*
- *What are we getting ready for during the season of Advent?*
- *How does your family prepare for Christmas?*

Reflection on Reading:

In today's gospel, John the Baptist announces that something great is about to happen. The savior that God has promised is coming. John tells the people to make room in their hearts for Jesus. John the Baptist is sent to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. John tells people to change their lives so they live as God wants them to live. To be prepared for the coming of the Lord, we must experience a change of heart and be truly sorry for our sins.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:

A story of forgiveness. Joseph's brothers did mean things to them, but when they come to him looking for food because they are starving. He forgives them and asks them to come and live in Egypt where there is plenty of food.

Read 2 stories from the book: Stories from the Old Testament: ***Joseph and His Brothers AND Joseph in Egypt.***

Talk about how mean Joseph's brothers were to him and how even though they did this, when they said they were sorry and asked for help that Joseph forgave them.

Ask them if they have ever had a time when it was hard to forgive someone. Tell them that Jesus helps them.

Dear Jesus, help us to remember you are with us when we forgive others. Help us to be a light to the world. Amen.

Activity 2:

How can we tell others about Jesus? Do you think a lot of people to know about Jesus? How can we tell lots and lots of people? How long would it take for you to tell everyone in this church, in this town, in the whole world?

Ask for a volunteer. Have the volunteer spread the Good News by going from person to person and putting a hand on their shoulder and saying "Jesus loves you!" Let them go to 5 or 6 kids. Now say, "Let's see if there is a different way that would spread the News even faster." Have the volunteer touch 2 people and say "Jesus loves you!" Now those 2 each touch 2 more and say "Jesus loves you" and they each tell 2 more and then repeat it one more time. There are now 15 kids who have heard God's word.

Say: "Look at how fast that went; we could do the whole church really quickly by doing this. If we tell 2 people and they tell 2 people, the story of Jesus will spread very quickly and everyone will know that Jesus loves them so they should try hard to do the right thing.

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who sent his Son to us so that our sins would be forgiven?
Do you believe in Jesus, who was proclaimed as the Son of God by John the Baptist?
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills us with love, joy and peace and the strength to make good decisions?*

Sending Forth

Say: When we go back into church take a quiet moment to ask God to help you spread the love of Jesus this Advent season by helping others or sharing or hugs or spreading other kind acts of love.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play *"Tell Me the Story of Jesus"* track 3 from Advent CD Cycle B while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.