

Sixth Session - Year 3

People of Advent

(THEME: Advent)



Goals:

1. Focus on hospitality and welcome for all.
2. Meet key people of the season of Advent.
3. See how they each responded to the Spirit's call.

Weekly Necessities:

1. Table(s) set up with needed supplies ... pencil cases, attendance sheets, name tags, a couple extra Bibles
2. Room set up with card tables, two chairs per table, facing where the Coach will be [if do not have card tables, use longer tables with two chairs set up at either end of the table]
3. Lectern for Coach and a little table for any extra resources they may have
4. Prayer table set up in the midst of tables: liturgical cloth [green for Ordinary Time, white for Christmas Season and Easter Season, purple(s) for Advent and Lent and red for Good Friday and Pentecost Sunday]; candle; Bible [New Revised Standard Version], open to reading for prayer
5. Set up of screen/tv and/or LCD projector. If you use a projector you need speakers.
6. Power Point Presentation
7. Coffee/Tea available for parents as they arrive
8. Refreshments needed for children for the end of the session (usually some kind of juice and a couple cookies each)
9. Have music playing as people come in
10. Signs concerning 'no cell phones' up on walls
11. Don't distribute handouts until indicated to do so.

Specific Materials Needed:

1. One sheet of construction paper for each child.
2. Glue
3. Crayons/markers
4. Scissors

Prepare in Advance:

1. Ask for a volunteer to proclaim the Scripture reading for the opening prayer: Isaiah 40:3-5, and for the closing prayer: Isaiah 7:14. Have them practice it. Remind them to read nice and slow and loud enough for everyone to hear. Advise that you will let them know when you want them to read, by the cue: "Now let us listen to God's word."
2. Ask for 3 volunteers to read the readings from Luke, Matthew and Mark using the versions attached. These readings come from the Good News Bible, which may be easier for the children to understand.
3. Add an Advent wreath to the prayer table.

Notes for Coach: Must be read as you prepare for each session

1. **Hospitality is important!** As the leader, spend the arrival time moving among the participants, greeting and speaking with them, not doing last minute preparations to the session.
2. Out of respect for those who arrive on time, begin each session on time – stragglers will hopefully begin to take note after a few weeks.
3. Notice that in your session, the timelines are estimates. Pay attention to the energy in the room and the clock to decide if you need more/less time.
4. "... " means to pause *or* that this is an open question for the big group
5. Cannot stress enough the importance of being prepared so that you can make the session your own.
6. Facilitator does what is in red; facilitator says what is in black.
7. Power point slides are placed within the script for ease of presentation

Handouts (hole punched for duo tangs):

1. *Prophecy about John the Baptist* [one per child]
2. *Advent Heroes* [one per child]

AS FAMILIES ARRIVE, DISPLAY SLIDE #2 (WELCOME)



Welcome and prayer (10 minutes)

Welcome parents and children.

Welcome everyone! So happy to be back with you again.

Here we are once again in a new liturgical season. Can anyone tell me what that season is? ...

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #3 (ADVENT)



That's right – we are in the season of Advent (or next week we will be in the season of Advent; *it depends on your parish's schedule*).

Does anyone know what we do during the season of Advent? ...

Right again – we prepare for the birth of the baby Jesus.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #4 (PREPARE FOR JESUS)



Well today/tonight we are going to meet some people who have an important place in our Church, particularly during Advent – we are going to call them our Advent heroes. Who likes heroes? ... Do any of you know any heroes? ... Who are your heroes? ... *Allow time for the children to name their heroes; they will likely be super heroes, and that's okay. After a few responses say:* The heroes we will talk about tonight/today were chosen by God to care for Jesus, or point the way to him and they said 'yes, I'll do that.'

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #5 (GOALS OF THIS SESSION)



Share the goals of this session:

As always, at this session we will focus on hospitality and welcome for all; we will meet some people we hear about during Advent and see how they each responded to the Spirit's call.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #6 (PRAYER)



Let's begin with prayer. Invite everyone around the prayer table, to which has been added an Advent wreath. In our prayer, we will begin with a song taken from the movie *Godspell* – remember when we talked about the four Gospels earlier this year, and we said the word Gospel was taken from the word godspell? Well, this movie was made in the 1970's and it is a pretty funky movie that talks about the message from the Gospels. In the scene we will see, the guy in the flashy coat is John the Baptist, and the man we see occasionally off to the side is Jesus. Once all have quietened begin: In the name of the Father + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Begin with the song "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord" from the musical *Godspell*, found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1SiaCV26aQ>

Immediately after the song is finished, have a reader proclaim Isaiah 40:3-5. Once the reading is finished, allow a minute or two of silence. Then invite all to return to their seats.

CLICK DIRECTLY ON SLIDE #6 (PRAYER) TO LAUNCH THE VIDEO

successfully accessed on July 31st, 2018.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #7 (ADVENT HEROES)



Advent Heroes (30 minutes)

As I said, tonight we are going to hear about some heroes. We are going to hear about a man who lived more than 700 years before Jesus was born ... that's a pretty long time ago, isn't it? This man, whose name was Isaiah told the Hebrew people two important things that we sometimes hear during Advent: that a young virgin woman would give birth to the Saviour, and that someone coming from the wilderness will prepare the people for Jesus. Imagine! That man knew this would happen 700 years

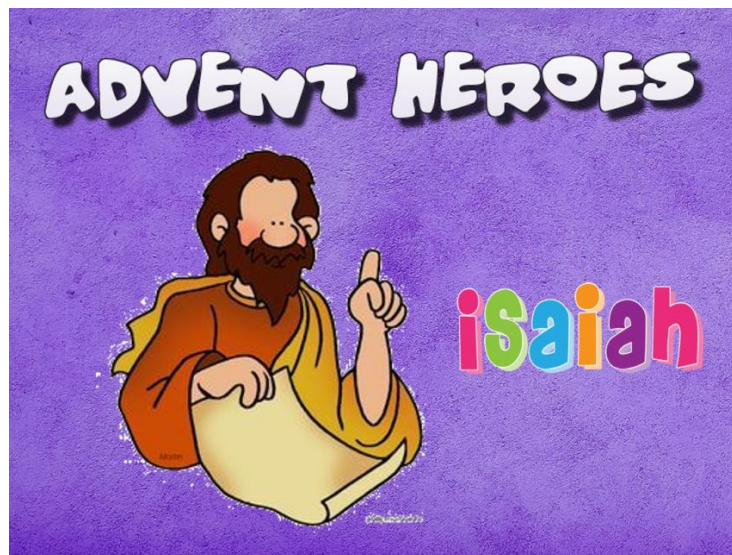
before it did! He must have been pretty smart, don't you think?
... Do you think the people believed him? ... Well, they might have
at the beginning, but because it was such a long time before it
happened, they may have begun to doubt.

Then we will hear about a very special woman named Mary.
Have any of you heard of Mary? ... Who was Mary? ... That's
right! Mary was the mother of Jesus. Well today/tonight you are
going to hear how she came to find out that she was going to
have a baby, and how she said 'yes' she would be Jesus' mother.

Another hero we will hear about tonight/today is a man named
Joseph. Does anyone know who Joseph is? ... Right again.
Joseph was Mary's husband, and he was Jesus' earthly father.
We are going to hear about how Joseph knew that he had
someone pretty special that he had to look after in Jesus and
Mary, and how he said 'yes, I'll look after them.'

And finally, we are going to hear about a kind of crazy guy
named John the Baptist. This is the person that Isaiah was
talking about who would help to prepare the people for Jesus,
and he said 'yes' he would do that.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #8 (ISAIAH)



First, we are going to learn about the Prophet Isaiah, but before that we are going to hear some important news he had about 700 years before Jesus was born.

Have the volunteer read [Isaiah 9:6](#)

Who was Isaiah talking about? ... Remember, that was written hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus was born! Now, let's watch a little video about Isaiah the prophet who wrote the scripture passage we just heard.

CLICK DIRECTLY ON SLIDE #8 (ISAIAH) TO LAUNCH VIDEO

[successfully accessed on July 31, 2018.](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aZrUvR2ths>

Who did God choose as a messenger to tell people to stop sinning and turn back to God? (Isaiah) ... How did God speak to Isaiah? (Dream) ... What did Isaiah reply in response to his dream? (Here, I am) ...

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #9 (MARY)



Now, let's hear about our next Advent Hero, Mary.

Have the volunteer read Luke 1:26-38 from the version attached. This is from a different translation of the Bible, and may be easier for the children to understand.

Once it has been read, show the story again by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAl2Hk39yX4> (annunciation)

CLICK DIRECTLY ON SLIDE #9 (MARY) TO LAUNCH VIDEO

successfully accessed on July 31, 2018.

What did the angel say to Mary when he appeared to her? ...
Right! He said, don't be afraid, you're going to be a mommy, but it's all good. And what did Mary say? ... She said, yes, okay, I will trust God.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #10 (JOSEPH)



Now we are going to hear about Joseph who was engaged to marry Mary. When he found out Mary was going to have a baby, he knew he wasn't the baby's father. Let's listen to that story.

Invite the volunteer to read Matthew 1:18-25 from the version attached, again because it is an easier to understand translation.

Once it has been read show the story again by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-8GwC9lpOQ> (angel appears to Joseph)

CLICK DIRECTLY ON SLIDE #10 (JOSEPH) TO LAUNCH VIDEO

successfully accessed on July 31, 2018.

What did the angel say to Joseph when he appeared to him? ... Right! He said, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby came from the Holy Spirit, and it's all good. And what did Joseph do? ... He trusted God and married Mary.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #11 (JOHN THE BAPTIST)



Finally, we going to hear about the crazy guy I was talking about ... can anyone remember what his name was? ... John the Baptist.

Let's listen to that story. Invite the volunteer to read Mark 1:2-8 from the version attached, again because it is an easier to understand translation. Once it has been read show the story again by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NMHOLPWeTM> (John the Baptist)

CLICK DIRECTLY ON SLIDE #11 (JOHN THE BAPTIST) TO LAUNCH VIDEO

What was the name of the prophet who told us that someone would be coming to tell us about Jesus? ... We talked about him earlier? ... Isaiah. And what did Isaiah say that John would preach? ... That's right, prepare for the Lord, just like the song we heard during our opening prayer.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #12 (ADVENT HEROES)



These four people said "Yes" to God's plan, and because they said "yes" they are real life heroes.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #13 (CROSSWORD)



Complete the Crossword (15 minutes)

Distribute the crossword entitled *Prophecy about John the Baptist*, and have the children and their parents complete it. Allow 10 minutes to complete and check the answers before moving on. The solution is as indicated:

Prophecy of John the Baptist

Across: 2. Glory; 4. Ground; 7. Highway; 8. Wilderness

Down: 1. Mountain; 3. Prepare; 5. Spoken; 6. Valley

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #14 (COLOUR THE STORIES)



Colour the Stories (25 minutes)

Distribute the colouring sheet to the children. Allow time for the children to colour the sheet, then cut out the stories and glue them to a piece of construction paper in the correct order. Guide them in the correct order: prophet with the scroll; angel appears to Mary; angel appears to Joseph; John the Baptist appears in the wilderness.

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #15 (CLOSING PRAYER)



Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Direct their attention first of all to the screen and say: We have one more video to show you before we go to prayer. Click on the link indicated:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISsec5Z3IS4> (do not be afraid)

Invite the parents and their children to gather around the prayer table. What do you think is the message from this video? ... Right on! Do not be afraid! That is what the Advent heroes are telling us. Jesus will always be with us, so we don't need to be afraid. Those Advent heroes said 'yes' and put their trust in God. And we need to do that also.

So we will pray:

In the name of the Father +, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The response is: Yes, we trust you God. We are not afraid!

Mary said yes to God's plan; and we do too.

Response: Yes, we trust you God. We are not afraid!

Joseph said yes to God's plan; and we do too.

Response: Yes, we trust you God. We are not afraid!

John the Baptist said yes to God's plan; and we do too.

Response: Yes, we trust you God. We are not afraid!

Let us listen to God's word.

Invite volunteer to proclaim Isaiah 7:14. Ensure reader concludes with "The Word of the Lord." Pause briefly for silent reflection, then invite parents and children to face one another. Adults I invite you to trace the sign of the Cross on your child's forehead and say, "*Go in peace and remember ... Do not be afraid, trust in God's plan.*"

Children I invite you to trace the sign of the cross on your parent's forehead and say: "*Go in peace and remember ... Do not be afraid, trust in God's plan.*" All respond: "*Thanks be to God.*"

ADVANCE TO SLIDE #16 (GOOD BYE)



Thank you so much for being with us. Blessings for the remainder of your week and until we meet again. Let's take some

time to enjoy juice and cookies before you go. End with any directions for next gathering if necessary.

Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 1:26-38 (Good News Translation)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. ²⁷ He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

²⁹ Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. ³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, ³³ and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. ³⁷ For there is nothing that God cannot do."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Matthew 1:18-25 (Good News Translation)

¹⁸ This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. ²⁰ While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. ²¹ She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, ²³ “A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel” (which means, “God is with us”).

²⁴ So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. ²⁵ But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Mark 1:2-8 (Good News Translation)

² It began as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“God said, ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.’

³ Someone is shouting in the desert,
‘Get the road ready for the Lord;
make a straight path for him to travel!’”

⁴ So John the Baptist appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching.^[a] “Turn away from your sins and be baptized,” he told the people, “and God will forgive your sins.” ⁵ Many people from the province of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁶ John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He announced to the people, “The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Advent Heroes

