

# A Thrill of HOPE

## Family Worship Activities

### *First Sunday of Advent*

**DECEMBER 2, 2018**

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## The Anticipation of HOPE

**Sunday Scripture Reading:** *Luke 21:25-36*

### Supplies Needed Per Child:

- Bible
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers, or paper and crayons
- Paper
- Markers
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue Stick
- Pipe cleaners
- Small chalkboard or black construction paper
- Small cup of water, and paintbrush or cotton swabs

**Try this:** There are signs all around us. Notice the signs that tell you that Christmas is coming and that the season has changed. Look back in **Luke 2:8-15** for some clues and think about other signs that God gave to show that Jesus was coming. Read **Luke 21:25-36** to read about signs that Jesus is coming again. On your whiteboard or paper draw a picture of the signs that the Savior was born and the signs that Jesus is coming again.

**Ask:** What signs do you see in church and around town that Christmas is coming? What signs did God give to show that the Savior was born? What signs does **Luke 21:25-36** tell us we'll see when Jesus is coming again?

**Try this:** Use your paper, markers, popsicle sticks, and glue stick to create your own sign to the world that Jesus is coming again.

**Ask:** What can we do to help us anticipate Jesus coming again? What types of things can we avoid?

**Try this:** Use your pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, and markers to make an Advent wreath with pretend candles. You will need four popsicle sticks to act as your "candles." Attach the popsicle sticks to the pipe cleaners by wrapping the pipe cleaner around the bottom of each stick. Today, we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope. Color the tip of one popsicle stick to signify it being lit. Write "hope" on that popsicle stick.

**Ask:** What do you hope for? What about Jesus's return gives us hope?

## MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

*Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. Luke 21:33 (NLT)*

**Try this:** Use your wet paint brush or cotton swabs to paint the words to the verse on a chalkboard or a piece of black paper. What happens as the water dries?

**Ask:** What does Jesus mean when he says his words will never disappear?

# Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 9, 2018

## The Way of HOPE

**Sunday Scripture Reading:** *Luke 3:1-6*

### Supplies Needed Per Child:

- Bible
- Christmas cookie
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers, or paper and crayons
- Pipe cleaner Advent wreath from December 2
- Markers
- Paper and crayons

**Try this:** Find **Isaiah 40:3-5** in your Bible. Then find **Luke 3:4-6**. If you need help, ask someone to read them to you. What do you notice about the words?

**Ask:** Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? Why do you think such a long time passed (about 400 years!) between the last prophet who said a Savior was coming and John the Baptist's announcement? How are the words that Isaiah spoke (about 700 years before John the Baptist!) coming true in Luke 3?

**Try this:** Taste the cookie that is included in your supplies. Eat it slowly and carefully, paying attention to the flavors in your mouth.

**Ask:** What if the cookie had not been prepared properly? What if the sugar had been left out, or it had been completely burnt? Would you have enjoyed it? Would it have been a special treat? How does John the Baptist say people need to prepare for the coming Savior? What does it mean to repent?

**Try this:** On your whiteboard or paper draw a crooked, hilly, rough road over some steep mountains. Then draw a road that is smooth and flat. Think about which road you think would be better for traveling. Isaiah and John the Baptist are saying that we need to prepare the way for Jesus in our lives. This means that we need to ask Jesus to forgive our sins, and start living for him. Today, we light the Advent candle of peace. We need to remove the things that get in the way so that the peace of Jesus can enter our lives. The best part is that when we ask Jesus, he will help us! On the Advent wreath you made last week, color the tip of a second popsicle stick to signify it being lit. Write "peace" on the popsicle stick.

**Ask:** How can we make space for the peace of Jesus to enter our lives? What preparations can we make in our hearts and lives this week for Jesus to come?

## MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

*Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.  
Luke 3:3 (NLT)*

**Try this:** Draw your own treasure map with a starting point, a dotted line to make a winding path, and an X that marks the spot. Then, along the dotted line, write the memory verse.

**Ask:** What would it be like to go from place to place telling people to repent? Explain why you would or would not want to do that.

# *Third Sunday of Advent*

**DECEMBER 16, 2018**

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## The Generosity of HOPE

**Sunday Scripture Reading:** *Luke 3:7-18*

### Supplies Needed Per Child:

- Bible
- Wikki Stix, play-doh, or pipe cleaners
- Construction paper of various colors
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Fruit stickers or cut outs, optional
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers
- Pipe cleaner Advent wreath from December 2
- Markers
- Paper and crayons (scrap paper is fine)

**Try this:** Use your Wikki Stix, play-doh, or pipe cleaners to create a whole bunch of snakes. Make your snakes as varied and as detailed as you'd like.

**Ask:** Why is John the Baptist calling the people a brood of vipers (a bunch of snakes), or a bunch of liars and fakes? How are they pretending to be one way but actually being just the opposite?

**Try this:** John the Baptist is comparing the people in the crowd to fruit trees. Some have good fruit. Some don't have any at all. Read **Galatians 5:22-23** to see a list of the Fruits of the Spirit—good characteristics. Use your supplies to create a fruit tree with any fruit you like. As you draw or place fruit on the tree, label each piece of fruit with a Fruit of the Spirit.

**Ask:** What does good fruit look like in our lives? How will others know that we are following Jesus?

**Try this:** Today we light the Advent candle of joy. On the whiteboard, draw a picture of something that brings you joy. On the Advent wreath you made two weeks ago, color the tip of a third popsicle stick to signify it being lit. Write "joy" on the popsicle stick.

**Ask:** How does Jesus's birth bring us joy beyond Christmas presents and yummy food? How can we experience the type of joy that Jesus brings?

## MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

*The crowds asked, "What should we do?" John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry." Luke 3:10-11 (NLT)*

**Try this:** Fold a piece of paper in half. Draw a t-shirt shape on the paper. Cut it out. You should have two t-shirts. Try drawing and cutting out some other shapes, like a piece of food or a heart. Write today's verse on the shapes. Give some of your shapes away if you'd like.

**Ask:** What does it mean for us to live like John says to live in **Luke 3:10-11** in our real, everyday lives?

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**DECEMBER 23, 2018**

## The Arrival of HOPE

**Sunday Scripture Reading:** *Luke 1:39-55*

### Supplies Needed:

- Bible
- Song template (See template on page 9)
- Paper and crayons
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers
- Pipe cleaner Advent wreath from December 2
- Markers

**Try this:** Read **Luke 1:39-55**. Jesus's birth is so special that we have lots of songs about it. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth who was going to give birth to John the Baptist, Mary burst into song. Mary and Elizabeth both knew that the Savior was coming. Try creating your own song about the birth of the Savior to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. See the song template below to get you started.

**Ask:** What songs pop into your head when you think of the Savior's birth? Why do you think Mary started singing? Why do we sing?

**Try this:** A religious icon is an image created using special symbols. It tells part of a story, but it also shows us something sacred or very special. Icons have been created for more than a thousand years to help people think about holy moments from the Bible. Sometimes they are put into a stained glass window at a church, or in a home. You're going to create an icon based on today's story. Draw a picture of Mary and Elizabeth with baby Jesus and baby John the Baptist.

**Ask:** Why do you think God chose Mary and Elizabeth to give birth to two really important people—Jesus and John the Baptist? How do you think they felt about their roles? What fears do you think they had? How did God help them?

**Try this:** On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the Advent candle represents love. We often use hearts to represent love—we "love" something on social media or we "love" something we saw at the store or on a commercial. The love that Jesus gives is different. It is a pure and everlasting love. Draw or design a heart that illustrates Jesus's love. On the Advent wreath you made three weeks ago, color the tip of a fourth popsicle stick to signify it being lit. Write "love" on the popsicle stick.

**Ask:** How is Jesus's love different from "loving" your favorite food or even from how a special person loves you? How can we show Jesus's love to others?

## MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

*You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said. Luke 1:45 (NLT)*

**Try this:** Make up motions to this verse that you can do quietly in your seat. Repeat them over and over. When the service is over, share your motions and the verse with an adult.

**Ask:** What did the Lord say he would do? How are we blessed because of it?



# Advent Week 4

## Song Template



Mary had really good news  
Really good news  
Really good news  
Mary had really good news, and so do we, too.

The Savior is coming soon  
Coming Soon  
Coming Soon  
The Savior is coming soon, He is Christ the Lord.

Jesus brings us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (example: peace, joy, love, hope)  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus brings us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He saves the world.

This makes me \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(verb) (verb)

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

This makes me \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, every single day.