

# Advent

## Psalm 96



### FOR YOU

When we think of Advent, we tend to think of chocolate advent calendars and stressful preparations for Christmas. It's original purpose though was to focus on thinking about Jesus' return to earth at the end of time. This might be something that we don't want to think too much about, but the Bible is full of reminders that Jesus' kingdom will be full of goodness, justice and truth. At the end of time, when Jesus is ruling over everything, we shall all live in the light of his love and there will be no more sadness and darkness. Everyone will be free and there will be no more wars because Jesus, the Prince of Peace will reign with justice.

### STORY



Ready-steady

Play a game of musical statues, then talk about how hard it is to stay still and wait for the music to start again.

*We are in/entering the part of the church year called Advent—when we wait for Christmas and for Jesus to make everything full of goodness again.*



Read-tell

Use an advent wreath that you have made or a picture of one to explain the different elements as outlined below



Wonder together

*I wonder what it will be like when Jesus is ruling over everything?  
I wonder how I can share love, joy, hope and peace right now?*



Additional ide-

Have a look at our Advent Posada resources including an Advent liturgy <https://yorkdiocese-children-youth-resources.online/knowledge-base-2/las-posadas/>

## MAKE &amp; PLAY



- Make take home advent wreaths with paper, as per the picture, or with birthday candles stuck down in a jar lid or foil ash-tray
- Create the back drop for a Christmas mural that you will add to each week during December. This week ask the children to make a hand print with paint and cut them out to make stars when they are dry.
- 



## PRAY

Explain that often we use words when we pray but sometimes it is hard to find the right words—God listens too when we share our feelings and movements with him too.

Give everyone coloured scarves or strips of paper and encourage them to wave them as they dance to the music.

*Play Psalm 96 by Sons of Korah.  
<https://youtu.be/ulos5q69uZc>  
 It can be faded about 2:47 but if everyone is happy dancing carry on!*

## SONGS

- My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
- My God is so big, and I am so small
- Bigger than big

## @HOME

Give every family the picture of the candle to take home. Encourage them to try and do something that brings light and love to their home, school or community every day during Advent. When they do, they can colour in a ring around the flame in yellow or orange to show that the light is growing stronger and brighter.

# Advent Wreath

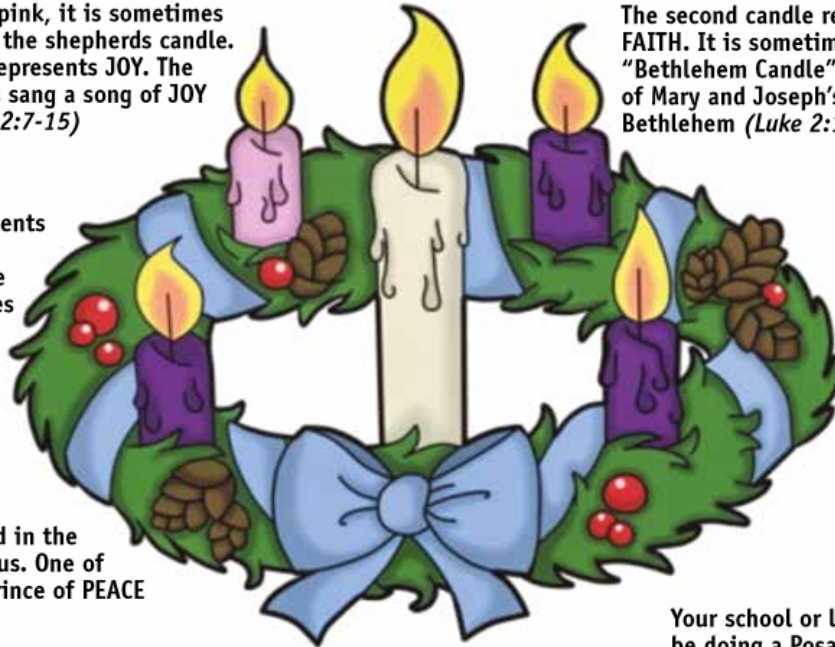
Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word 'Advent' means 'coming' in Latin, and so Christians use the time to celebrate Jesus coming into the world as a baby, and prepare for Jesus coming back at the end of time to take us all

to heaven. No one is really sure when Advent was first celebrated but it dates back to the first century when monks were ordered to fast during December leading up to Christmas. Paper Advent calendars were first popular in Germany in the early 1900s.

The third candle is often pink, it is sometimes called the shepherds candle. Pink represents JOY. The angels sang a song of JOY (Luke 2:7-15)

The second candle represents FAITH. It is sometimes called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)

The first candle represents prophecy and HOPE. We have HOPE because God keeps his promises (Romans 15:12-13)



The fourth candle or Angel Candle represents LOVE. The angels share the good news that God sent Jesus because he LOVES us (John 3:16)

The fifth candle placed in the middle represents Jesus. One of Jesus' names is The Prince of PEACE (Isaiah 9:6)

Your school or local church might be doing a Posada during Advent. Find out how you can get involved.

To help you celebrate Advent you could make an advent wreath, the tradition being that you light one candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent, and a fifth one on Christmas day.

*Stick greenery into a circular oasis, or make a circle with wire or card and decorate with green paper leaves. You could even make a really little one with birthday cake candles*

The circle and green represent God's never ending love.

*Press four candles firmly into the oasis or stick them into jar lids with plasticine or blu-tak. Make sure they can't fall over.*

*Often three of the candles are purple to represent the advent time of prayer and sacrifice. The middle candle is normally white, but don't worry if you have to use different colours.*

