



Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 57

- ▶ **Ask:** What are things you do when you get a party invitation? (mark the date on a calendar, buy a gift and a card, plan an outfit) **Say:** Advent is like that time of waiting. We have four weeks until we can celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Day.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** How do the words arrival and coming soon make you feel? (anxious, excited) **Say:** In this session we will learn about Advent, a time of hope and preparation.
- ▶ Ask your child to make a list of things he or she can do each day of Advent to prepare to celebrate Jesus' coming. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Together with your child, make a time line of things you would need to do to prepare for a birthday party. **Say:** Just as we anticipate and prepare for a party, people felt the same before Jesus' birth. They anticipated and prepared for the coming of the Savior.
- ▶ Read aloud We Reflect During Advent and We Are God's People on page 58. Explain that thousands of years before Jesus was born, God's people knew that a Savior was coming. **Say:** You had distant relatives waiting for the birth of Jesus. Invite your child to write a letter to his or her relatives, sharing what Advent is like now that Jesus has been born. **Say:** Tell your relatives that Jesus did come. Share some of the things you do today during Advent to prepare yourself for celebrating Jesus' birth.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** God asks us to be calm and to wait. All we need to do is make sure we have our homes and our hearts ready to receive and welcome him.

Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Ask your child to illustrate his or her favorite symbol for Jesus and explain its meaning.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** Isaiah talks about the coming of Jesus in symbolic form: a shoot growing from the stump of Jesse. Jesus is that shoot growing out of the great family of Jesse.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the section What We Experience. **Say:** It took tremendous faith and bravery to spread the news of Jesus' coming. We honor these prophets in our church in different ways, such as through stained-glass windows, statues, or paintings.
- ▶ Read aloud Growing Closer to Jesus and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the sentences with you.



Art Exploration: Page 238

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a stained-glass version of a Jesse Tree.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbols found on the tree.
- ▶ **Say:** *As we prepare during Advent, let us pay special attention to the Old Testament readings at Mass and turn the messages into action in our lives.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 238. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud The Church Celebrates Advent. Point out the vocabulary term. **Ask:** *What are some ways we can prepare for Christmas?* (send Christmas cards, bake cookies to give as gifts, sing carols, decorate a tree)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Family Jesse Tree. **Ask:** *How can we remember the people in the Old Testament?* (by reading Scripture, observing their symbols in church, making a Jesse Tree) Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Ask your child to imagine he or she is standing in a church, looking up at the stained-glass window of the Jesse Tree. Describe the colors. **Ask:** *What do you think the stained glass feels like? What does it remind you of?* Give your child time to have a silent conversation with Jesus about his family tree and think about his or her own family tree. Close by having your child pray with Jesus, asking his help to prepare joyfully for Christmas.

Respond: Page 60

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive a friend or a family member who has made a bad choice.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.