



Celebrating Advent

Engage: Page 57

- ▶ Light a candle and **ask:** *Why do people use candles? (to light a room if it is dark, for decoration)* **Say:** *Our church uses candles during Advent.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Advent, the time of year when we prepare to celebrate Christmas.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can light up the lives of family members during the season of Advent. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 58

- ▶ Together write a typical daily schedule for your family. **Ask:** *When do you make time to play with friends or talk to family members?* **Say:** *Just as we need to make time for things that are important to us, we need to make time for Jesus in our lives.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph. **Say:** *It is important to take time for Jesus because he is our way to true happiness and peace.* Read aloud and discuss the two questions on the page.
- ▶ Read aloud Jesus, My Light. Offer an example. **Say:** *One way I can light the way for others is by being a leader on the playground. When someone is left out, I will be his or her friend.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How can you live as a child of light? (always set a good example, listen to my parents, show kindness on the playground)*

Reflect: Page 59

- ▶ Together make a diorama by cutting a one-inch hole in the front of a shoe box. Then cut a door into the lid by cutting three sides of a rectangle that can open and shut. Glue figures from a Nativity scene into the box. Let your child look at it with the door on the lid open and closed. **Ask:** *Why do we need light? (to see in the dark)*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent. **Say:** *As we see different candles and festive lights at Advent, we are reminded that Jesus lights our way.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience and complete the activity. Remind him or her that there are three purple candles and one pink candle in an Advent wreath.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Review the meaning of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. **Say:** *Advent is the perfect time to ask for and offer forgiveness.*



Art Exploration: Page 244

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of an Advent wreath.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, focusing on the candles, colors, and shape of the wreath.
- ▶ **Say:** *The green Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end, just as God has no beginning and no end. Each candle represents one week of Advent. The purple candles remind us to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming through prayer and good works. The pink candle symbolizes that our waiting will soon end.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 244. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Lighting the Way for Jesus*. **Say:** *Light is often used to describe warmth, goodness, and love.* **Ask:** *What can we do to make room for Jesus' light in our hearts?* (pray, do good deeds)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Making Room for Jesus' Light*. Offer suggestions that your child can do, such as read stories from the Bible, go to Mass, use an Advent wreath at home, or set up a Nativity scene. Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ In the center of a paper plate, have your child draw a picture of a way your family will prepare for the birth of Jesus during Advent. Have your child glue on silk or paper green leaves to cover the plate rim. He or she can cover four empty toilet tissue tubes with three purple sheets and one pink sheet of construction paper and glue the tubes to the paper plate to represent Advent wreath candles. Share the wreath with other family members.

Respond: Page 60

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can shine a light for others.
- ▶ 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.