

Second Grade Lesson Plan

Lesson 9, Chapter 4: God the Father/Advent (p.12)

Focus: God is our loving Father. The symbols of Advent help us change our hearts and draw closer to God as we wait for Jesus' birth.

Materials needed:

- "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" Advent Wreath Booklets– 1 per child (in large tub)
- "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" Advent Wreaths – 1 per child (IN 2ND GRADE TUB ON THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE MOUSE HOUSE)
- Advent wreath and candles (catechist provides – if you need a wreath, please call before Wed.)
- Scissors (in Mouse House on shelves)
- Ring Toss Game (included in lesson plan)

Before class begins:

- The Ring Toss game will require some simple preparation at home.

Prayer: Our Father/Act of Contrition

What to Say and Do:

- ***Tell me some words that describe your mom or dad. What do you think parents do better than anything else?*** (Love us!)
- ***Do you think God loves you as much as your parents?*** (God loves us that much and far more.)
- ***Is it hard for you to imagine that God loves you that much? Jesus always called God "Father" and he teaches us that we can call God our Father, too.***

- ***The day you were baptized, you became a real son or daughter of God! Did you know that? God loves you even more than a mother or a father loves you and that's a lot!***
- ***Do you ever talk to God? Do you ask God for things? Do you think God hears you or answers your prayers?***
- ***Jesus told us not to worry too much. He said that God our Father wants us to have everything we need. We can trust God to love us, to listen to us and to take care of us.***
- ***What is the biggest thing God did to show he loves us? (He sent Jesus, his son.) At this time of year, we're getting ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, the Savior sent by God.***
- ***One word that describes this time of year means the same as "arrival" or "coming". What is that word? (Advent). Let's find out what this celebration is all about!***
- ***The word "Advent" is a word we use to describe the season of the year in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It describes the four Sundays before Christmas when we can especially look forward or get ready to celebrate Christmas.***
- ***Today we're going to make an Advent wreath. Who knows what the Advent wreath is? (Bring out your wreath for the children to see.)***

- *The Advent wreath is a very special symbol that helps us remember why we celebrate Christmas. It's easy to get so excited about presents, and parties and Santa Claus that we forget about Jesus. Presents and parties and Santa are all good things but we can't let them make us forget the real reason Christmas exists. God, our loving Father, sent Jesus to us.*
- *Okay! So we're waiting for Jesus. How does the wreath help us do that? Look at it closely. What do you see? The branches are in a circle because a circle has no beginning and no end. That helps us remember that Jesus is the complete story of God's love for us. He has no beginning and no end. He came to earth, lived, loved, and died for us. Now he lives forever in heaven.*
- *What else do you see on the wreath? (candles) Jesus called himself the "light of the world". Candles give light by giving up themselves. The heat of the fire melts the wax and then the melted wax burns. The light glows and the candle dies.*
- *Who else do you know who gave light by giving his life? (Jesus) Candles help us remember all that Jesus did for us.*
- *The candles are all purple but one! Why do you suppose one is pink? Let's take a short stretch break and then we'll find out all about the colors of the Advent wreath.*
- *Each Sunday before Christmas, we light a candle on the wreath. Each candle has a different meaning.*

- 1. 1st candle: the Hope candle. It reminds us of Old Testament times when God's people waited and hoped for the savior God had promised them.**
- 2. 2nd candle: the Peace candle. It reminds us of the peace Jesus gives.**
- 3. 3rd candle: The pink one! This candle is pink because it reminds us of the joy we feel at Jesus' birth. And because Christmas is almost here!**
- 4. 4th candle: the Love candle. This candle reminds us of God's love for us and our love for God.**
- 5. Sometimes a fifth candle is put in the middle of the Advent wreath. It is called the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to remind us of Jesus' birth. Now that you know all about the Advent wreath, are you ready to make one of your own?**

Pass out the "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" booklets to take home and a "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" Advent Wreath to make. Children can take their booklet home with them. If you have extra time, play the Advent Ring Toss game and discuss the questions at the bottom of the page.

Closing Prayer: Hail Mary/Glory Be