

The Advent Kit

Four Sundays of lessons, discussion and quizzes for churches and families, November 29 to December 20, 2026, plus a Christmas Eve reading.

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How to use this kit

Each week gives a children's ministry leader everything for one Sunday, and gives adults something to talk about too.

WEEK	DATE	CANDLE	MAIN STORY
1	November 29	Hope	Watch and wait (Mark 13:24-37)
2	December 6	Peace	John prepares the way (Mark 1:1-8)
3	December 13	Joy	A witness to the Light (John 1:6-8, 19-28)
4	December 20	Love	Gabriel visits Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
Bonus	December 24	Christ candle	The birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)

Every week includes:

- A 30-minute kids' lesson for ages 6 to 10, with timings
- A memory verse quoted from the King James Version
- A hands-on activity using simple supplies
- A take-home note for families
- Three discussion questions for adult small groups
- A five-question quiz, with answers at the end of the kit
- A 45-second video storyboard using symbolic imagery only

Readings follow the Year B Sunday readings used by both the Revised Common Lectionary and the Catholic lectionary, so the Gospel passage matches what many churches hear in worship that day.

Candle themes vary by tradition. This kit uses the common Hope, Peace, Joy, Love order. Some churches use a different order or name the candles Prophets, Bethlehem, Shepherds and Angels. Catholic parishes light a rose candle on the third Sunday, which fits this kit's Joy week. Change the names to match your church.

Verse quotations come from the King James Version, which is public domain and free to print and share.

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Week 1, November 29: Hope

Big idea: We wait with hope because Jesus keeps His promises, and God is still shaping us while we wait.

Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9 · Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 · 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 · Mark 13:24-37

MEMORY VERSE

"But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." Isaiah 64:8 (KJV)

Kids' lesson (30 minutes)

1. **Light the candle (3 min).** Light the first candle, or show a paper one. Say: "Advent means coming. For four weeks we get ready for Jesus."
2. **Game: Keep watch (5 min).** One child is the doorkeeper and closes their eyes. Others tiptoe toward a "door" line. When the doorkeeper opens their eyes, everyone freezes. Ask: "Was it easy to stay ready?"
3. **Story: The doorkeeper (8 min).** Read Mark 13:32-37. A man goes on a long trip and tells the doorkeeper to watch, because no one knows when he will come back. Jesus says we don't know the day He will return either, so we stay ready (Mark 13:32-33).
4. **Talk about it (6 min).**
   - What does it mean to "keep watch" for Jesus?
   - How do you feel when you wait for something good, like a birthday?
   - What can we do while we wait for Jesus?
5. **Activity: God shapes me (6 min).** Give each child a ball of play dough. Read Isaiah 64:8. They shape something that shows how God is making them kind, brave or helpful.
6. **Prayer (2 min).** "God, thank You that You keep Your promises. Shape us while we wait for Jesus. Amen."

Supplies: Advent wreath or paper candles, play dough, a strip of tape for the door line.

Take-home note for families

Today we started Advent and learned to wait with hope. Ask your child: *What did the doorkeeper have to do?* This week, give your child a lump of dough or clay at dinner and read Isaiah 64:8 together.

Adult small group questions

1. Mark 13 speaks of the sun darkening and stars falling, yet tells us to watch with hope. How do you hold both fear and hope about the future?
2. Isaiah 64 begins with a cry for God to "rend the heavens" and come down. Where do you long for God to break in this year?
3. Paul tells the Corinthians they lack no spiritual gift while they wait (1 Corinthians 1:7). What has God already given you for this season of waiting?

Quiz

1. In Isaiah 64:8, who is the potter?
2. What three things does Jesus tell His followers to do in Mark 13:33?
3. According to Mark 13:32, who knows the day and hour of Jesus' return?
4. In Jesus' story, who was told to watch at the door?
5. Which tree did Jesus use to teach about reading the signs (Mark 13:28)?

Story video

A 45-second narrated video for this week is at **biblelessonhelper.com/advent**. It works with the sound off too, thanks to captions.

Quiz answers

1. God (Isaiah 64:8)
2. Take heed, watch and pray (Mark 13:33)
3. Only the Father (Mark 13:32)
4. The doorkeeper, called the porter in the KJV (Mark 13:34)
5. The fig tree (Mark 13:28)

Before you teach: look up each reference once in your church's Bible. Some newer translations word the verses differently, and a few name places differently, such as "Bethany beyond the Jordan" instead of Bethabara in John 1:28.



Week 2, December 6: Peace

Big idea: God is a gentle shepherd who brings peace, and John the Baptist showed people how to get their hearts ready for Jesus.

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 · Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 · 2 Peter 3:8-15a · Mark 1:1-8

MEMORY VERSE

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm." Isaiah 40:11 (KJV, first half)

Kids' lesson (30 minutes)

1. **Light the candles (3 min).** Light the Hope candle and the second candle, Peace. Ask: "What makes you feel peaceful?"
2. **Game: Make the path straight (5 min).** Scatter crumpled paper and cushions across the floor. Teams race to clear a straight, smooth path from one wall to the other.
3. **Story: A voice in the wilderness (8 min).** Read Mark 1:1-8. John lived in the desert, wore camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6). He told people to get ready for Jesus by saying sorry to God and being baptized in the Jordan River (Mark 1:4-5). He said someone much greater was coming after him (Mark 1:7).
4. **Talk about it (6 min).**
   - What "messy stuff" in our hearts might get in the way of Jesus?
   - Why do you think John said he wasn't even worthy to untie Jesus' sandals?
   - How does saying sorry bring peace?
5. **Activity: Shepherd's lamb (6 min).** Children glue cotton balls onto a paper lamb shape and write "God carries me" on it. Read Isaiah 40:11 together.
6. **Prayer (2 min).** "Jesus, help us clear the way in our hearts for You. Thank You for carrying us like a shepherd carries a lamb. Amen."

Supplies: paper lamb outlines, cotton balls, glue sticks, crumpled paper and cushions for the path.

Take-home note for families

Today we met John the Baptist, who helped people get ready for Jesus. Ask your child: *What did John eat in the desert?* This week, tidy one room together and talk about how saying sorry to God "clears

the path" in our hearts.

Adult small group questions

1. Isaiah 40 opens with "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people." Who needs that word of comfort from you this Advent?
2. John's message of repentance came before the good news of peace. Why do you think one prepares the way for the other?
3. Peter says the Lord is not slow about His promise but patient, not wanting anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). How does that change the way you see God's timing?

Quiz

1. What did John the Baptist wear (Mark 1:6)?
2. What did John eat?
3. In which river did John baptize people?
4. Mark 1:3 says, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Which prophet wrote those words first?
5. In Isaiah 40:11, God is compared to what kind of worker?

Story video

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Quiz answers

1. Camel's hair with a leather belt (Mark 1:6)
2. Locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6)
3. The Jordan (Mark 1:5)
4. Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3)
5. A shepherd (Isaiah 40:11)

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Week 3, December 13: Joy

Big idea: John wasn't the Light, but he pointed people to Jesus with joy. We can reflect Jesus' light and joy too.

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 · Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46-55 · 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 · John 1:6-8, 19-28

MEMORY VERSE

"Rejoice evermore." 1 Thessalonians 5:16 (KJV). Older children can add verses 17-18: "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks."

Kids' lesson (30 minutes)

1. **Light the candles (3 min).** Light Hope, Peace and the third candle, Joy. In many churches this candle is pink or rose. Ask: "What makes you really happy?"
2. **Game: Who am I? (5 min).** One child secretly picks a Bible character. Others ask yes-or-no questions to guess. Say: "Today, important people asked John the same question."
3. **Story: A witness to the Light (8 min).** Read John 1:6-8 and 19-23. Leaders came from Jerusalem and asked John, "Who art thou?" He said he was not the Christ (John 1:20). He was a voice in the wilderness, sent to point to the Light, Jesus (John 1:8, 23).
4. **Talk about it (6 min).**
   - Why do you think John kept saying, "It's not me, it's Jesus"?
   - How can we point other people to Jesus?
   - Paul says to rejoice always. Is it possible to be joyful even on a hard day?
5. **Activity: Reflect the light (6 min).** Children cover a cardboard star with foil. Shine a flashlight on it and watch it glow. Say: "We aren't the Light, but we can reflect it, just like John."
6. **Prayer (2 min).** "Jesus, You are the Light of the world. Help us reflect Your joy to everyone we meet. Amen."

Supplies: cardboard star shapes, aluminum foil, glue, a flashlight.

Take-home note for families

Today we learned that John pointed people to Jesus, the true Light. Ask your child: *Was John the Light?* This week, turn off the lights one evening, shine a flashlight on your foil star and name three things you're thankful for.

Adult small group questions

1. John defined himself by who he was not: not the Christ, not Elijah, not the Prophet. What would it look like to find your identity in pointing to Jesus?
2. Isaiah 61 promises good news to the poor and healing for the brokenhearted. Where is joy hard for you or someone you love this Christmas?
3. Paul links joy, prayer and thanksgiving (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Which of the three comes hardest to you right now?

Quiz

1. Was John the Baptist the Light (John 1:8)?
2. What question did the priests and Levites ask John (John 1:19)?
3. How did John describe himself in John 1:23?
4. Where was John baptizing, according to John 1:28?
5. Finish the verse: "Rejoice _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:16).

Story video

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Quiz answers

1. No, he was a witness to the Light (John 1:8)
2. "Who art thou?" (John 1:19)
3. The voice of one crying in the wilderness (John 1:23)
4. Bethabara, beyond the Jordan (John 1:28)
5. Evermore (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Before you teach: look up each reference once in your church's Bible. Some newer translations word the verses differently, and a few name places differently, such as "Bethany beyond the Jordan" instead of Bethabara in John 1:28.



Week 4, December 20: Love

Big idea: God loved the world so much that He kept His promise to David by sending Jesus, and Mary answered God's love with a willing yes.

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 · Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 · Romans 16:25-27 · Luke 1:26-38

MEMORY VERSE

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37 (KJV)

Kids' lesson (30 minutes)

1. **Light the candles (3 min).** Light all four candles, ending with Love. Ask: "How do you know someone loves you?"
2. **Game: Gabriel says (5 min).** Play "Simon says" as "Gabriel says." Afterward ask: "Was it hard to listen carefully?" Say: "Today, Mary listened to a real message from the angel Gabriel."
3. **Story: Gabriel visits Mary (8 min).** Read Luke 1:26-38. God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary in Nazareth (Luke 1:26-27). Gabriel said, "Fear not, Mary," and told her she would have a baby named Jesus, who would reign forever (Luke 1:30-33). Mary said yes: "Be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).
4. **Talk about it (6 min).**
   - How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel?
   - Gabriel said nothing is impossible with God. What seems impossible to you?
   - How can we say yes to God like Mary did?
5. **Activity: My yes to God (6 min).** Children cut out a paper heart. On one side they write "God loves me." On the other they write one way they will show God's love this week, such as helping at home or making a card for a neighbour.
6. **Prayer (2 min).** "God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus. Help us say yes to You like Mary. Amen."

Supplies: red and pink paper, scissors, markers.

Take-home note for families

Today we heard how the angel Gabriel told Mary she would be Jesus' mother. Ask your child: *What did Mary say to the angel?* This week, do your child's "yes to God" act of love together.

Adult small group questions

1. David wanted to build God a house, but God promised to build David a house instead (2 Samuel 7). When has God answered your plans with something better?
2. Mary asks "How shall this be?" before saying yes. What questions do you bring to God, and can faith hold them alongside trust?
3. Gabriel calls Mary "highly favoured" before she has done anything. How does receiving God's love first change the way we serve Him?

Quiz

1. Which angel did God send to Mary?
2. In which town did Mary live?
3. What name did the angel tell Mary to give her baby?
4. Which of Mary's relatives was also expecting a baby (Luke 1:36)?
5. In 2 Samuel 7:16, how long did God promise David's throne would last?

Story video

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Quiz answers

1. Gabriel (Luke 1:26)
2. Nazareth, in Galilee (Luke 1:26)
3. Jesus (Luke 1:31)
4. Her cousin Elisabeth (Luke 1:36)
5. For ever (2 Samuel 7:16)

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Christmas Eve bonus, December 24: The Christ candle

A 10-minute family reading for the dinner table or the end of a Christmas Eve service.

MEMORY VERSE

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 (KJV)

1. **Light all the candles.** Light Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, then the white Christ candle in the centre. Say: "The waiting is over. Jesus is here."
2. **Read the story in three parts.** Let a different family member read each part.
   - Luke 2:1-7: Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem, and Jesus is laid in a manger.
   - Luke 2:8-14: Angels bring good news to shepherds in the fields.
   - Luke 2:15-20: The shepherds hurry to find Jesus and tell everyone what they saw.
3. **Talk about it.**
   - Why do you think God told shepherds first?
   - Which Advent candle reminds you most of Jesus' birth?
   - Who could we share this good news with?
4. **Pray together.** "Jesus, thank You for coming to be with us. Fill our home with Your hope, peace, joy and love. Amen."

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