

Advent Lesson 1

Advent means time to prepare.

Are there things do you prepare to do?

I'll give you a minute to think.

- Prepare lunch for school.
- Prepare to go to a grandparents' house.



When we prepare for something, we gather what we need to be ready for what we will do or experience.

What would you gather for going to your grandparents? Shoes, clothes, teddy bear, toothbrush, a book to read, a game to play. Everything you need to have a nice visit with them.

As Christians, Advent means we prepare our hearts, minds, and even our homes to celebrate Christmas. Each week you will learn a part of Jesus's story so you will be prepared to tell the Christmas story at the end of Advent. You will have all the characters in the story as masks, so keep them in a safe place each week.

What should we prepare for the Advent lesson?

Bible

Colors

Tape

Pencil

Scissors

Angel Mask



An adult will need to get a Bible and together with child find Luke 1:26-33

I wonder what if Gabriel felt he was helping Mary prepare.

I wonder what Mary felt when Gabriel told her she was going to have a baby.

What do you wonder?

While you wonder you can color this mask of the angel Gabriel. When you are finished cut out the mask. You may need a grownup to help you with the eyes. Attach the mask to a popsicle stick, old pencil, or small stick as a handle to hold the mask to your face.

Practice saying these words or write them on the back of your mask.

"Greetings Mary, do not be afraid. You will have a son and name him Jesus."

Pray:

God in heaven, thank you for Advent. Thank you for teaching us to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen

Extensions for Lesson 1:

-If you are doing this in a small group at church, take the time to choose a student who can read. Say that you need one person to find the verse and one person to read out loud. Letting one person find the verse gives those who don't like to read a chance to help with scripture. (Give the students hand sanitizer after they passed the Bible to one another.)

-Have the students grab a partner and say their Gabriel line to the other person at least 6 feet apart. Remind them to say it loudly because their face mask and the Gabriel mask will block their sound.

-Space the kids out six feet and play Gabriel Says! Like Simon Says but the Angel Gabriel told Mary so you can tell them fun directions.

Gabriel says, turn around.

Gabriel says, hop up and down.

Gabriel says, hug yourself.

Sit down!

Gabriel didn't say sit down, so now stay seated.

Gabriel says to stand on one foot.

Hop up and down.

Gabriel didn't say.

Gabriel says tap your shoulder.

Gabriel says tap your shoulder and use pat your head.

Gabriel says tap your shoulder, pat your head, and nod your head up and down.

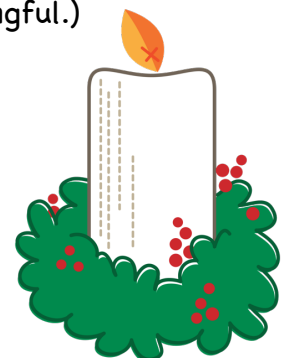
Gabriel says stop tapping your shoulder.

Now stop patting your head and nodding.

Wait Gabriel didn't say!

(Continue making up Gabriel says as you see fit.)

-Blessing-Gabriel prepared Mary by telling her she was going to have a baby, but he was also delivering a blessing over Mary as he tells her God favors her. You too are also favored by God. Before we go I would like to give you a blessing to remind you that you two are a favored child of God. Let's make a circle and you decide if you would like me to put my hand up above your head or would you like me to make the sign of the cross in your direction while I say the blessing to you. Kids like choices. (Remember since you cannot get close enough to touch you will have to do an air blessing so be sure to look them in the eye to make it meaningful.)



Advent Lesson 2

Gabriel prepared Mary that she was to have a son. Jesus' story continues with Mary's fiancé Joseph. He was preparing for God's special son to be born by following the rules of his government to make sure his new family would be counted correctly in a census. A census counts how many people are living in a city, so that the government can prepare for the right amount of food and supplies a city, would need. We have a census still today.



What you need to prepare for today's lesson:

Bible

Scissors

Crayons

Stick

Tape

Joseph Masks



An adult will need to get a Bible and together with your child look up the scripture Luke 2:1-5. If your child is a reader let them read it aloud, but you may have to help with city names. It is perfectly normal to read scripture multiple times.

I wonder how Joseph felt as he entered the city of Bethlehem.

I wonder what Joseph thought would happen when they arrived.

What do you wonder?

As your child wonders encourage your child to color in the mask of Joseph. Share with the child that Joseph was from the Middle East and was Jewish so he would most likely have more melanin in his skin. Which means, he would be a soft shade of brown.

When you are finished coloring cut the mask out and attach a stick for the handle of the mask. Practice saying this Joseph line, "I traveled to Bethlehem with my new family to be counted in the census."

You may want to write it on the back of the mask to help you remember. Keep the mask in a safe place with the Gabriel mask because you will need it to tell the story.

Pray: God in heaven thank you for families that are formed in many different ways. Jesus's family was made special for him as God chose Joseph to be his earthly father. Guide us all to be loving members of our family. Amen

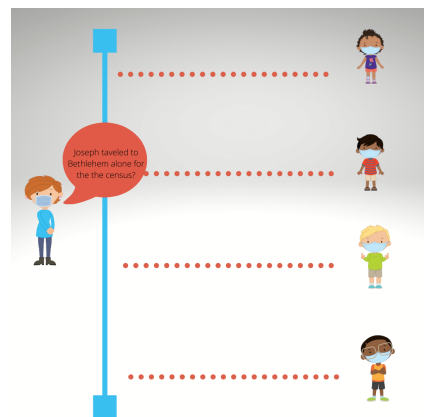
Extensions for Lesson 2:

-If you are doing this in a small group at church, take the time to choose a student who can read. Say that you need one person to find the verse and one person to read out loud. Letting one person find the verse gives those who don't like to read a chance to help with scripture. (Give the students hand sanitizer after they passed the Bible to one another.)

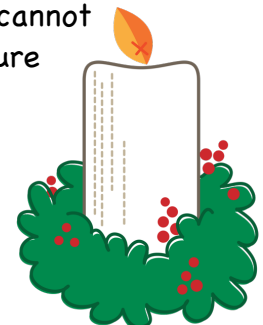
-Have the students grab a partner and say their Joseph line to the other person at least 6 feet apart. Remind them to say it loudly because their face mask and the Joseph mask will block their sound.

-Movement game: True or False Travel. Joseph traveled to Bethlehem in today's scripture today we are going to play True or False Travel. You ONLY travel on the true statements and stay in place on the false statements. If you travel fast (taking big steps don't run) on the true statements, you may be first to cross the tape on the ground. If you travel on the false statement you need to go back to a wall. You can only travel when I count after the statement. Continue to move after the count and you will return to the start.

1. Joseph traveled to Bethlehem alone for the census. 1.2.3
2. Joseph traveled to Bethlehem with Mary. 1.2.3
3. Joseph was following the law. 1.2.3
4. Joseph was from Galilee. 1.2.3
5. Joseph wanted to register Mary in his town of Bethlehem. 1,2,3
6. Joseph was going to visit his friends. 1.2.3
7. Emperor Augustus set a decree to be counted. 1.2.3



-Blessing: Let's make a circle and you decide if you would like me to put my hand up above your head or would you like me to make the sign of the cross in your direction while I say the blessing to you. Kids like choices. (Remember since you cannot get close enough to touch you will have to do an air blessing so be sure to look them in the eye to make it meaningful.)



Advent Lesson 3

As Joseph brought Mary to Bethlehem and they found a place to stay for the census, unknown to them were shepherds in the region. Shepherds were usually adult men and young teen boys who stayed with the sheep in the field and kept them safe. They were prepared to scoop sheep out of harm's way with their staff that had a hook. It is commonly called a shepherd's hook because of the long length it allowed the shepherd to reach a sheep who may be in trouble.



What you will need to prepare for today's lesson:

Bible

Scissors

Crayons

Stick

Tape

Shepherd mask



An adult will need to get a Bible and together with your child look up the scripture Luke 2:8-15. If your child is a reader let them read it aloud. It is perfectly normal to read scripture multiple times.

I wonder if the shepherds felt scared by the bright star and angels.

I wonder if the shepherds traveled with their sheep to see Jesus?

What do you wonder?

As your child wonders encourage your child to color in the mask of the shepherd. Share with the child that shepherd Middle Eastern and so he would most likely have more melanin in his skin. Which means, he would be a soft shade of brown.

When you are finished coloring cut the mask out and attach a stick for the handle of the mask. Practice saying this Shepherd line, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see the Christ child!"

You may want to write it on the back of the mask to help you remember. Keep the mask in a safe place with the Joseph and Gabriel's mask because you will need it to tell the story later.

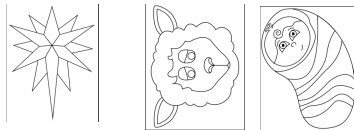
Pray: God in Heaven, thank you for telling us to seek the Christ Child. Help us to be like the Shepherd and look for Jesus in all we do. Amen

Extensions for Lesson 3:

-If you are doing this in a small group at church, take the time to choose a student who can read. Say that you need one person to find the verse and one person to read out loud. Letting one person find the verse gives those who don't like to read a chance to help with scripture. (Give the students hand sanitizer after they passed the Bible to one another.)

-Have the students grab a partner and say their Shepherd line to the other person at least 6 feet apart. Remind them to say it loudly because their face mask and the Shepherd mask will block their sound.

-Movement: Before the kids arrive in the space that you will be teaching the lesson, carefully hide the Star, several sheep print outs, and one baby Jesus. After the lesson tell the children that they are going to be a shepherd and go and seek. They need to be on the lookout to find one star, ___# of sheep, and Baby Jesus. If you find one you are done and need to return back to me. If you have not, keep looking because there should be enough that everyone finds one. Whoever finds Jesus gets to lead next week at their choice of prayer, scripture find, scripture read, or pass out the masks.



- Another option: If you have pool noodles, take the sheep you have already printed out and place it noodle length in front of each student who is standing on a physically spaced out taped X on the floor. Then give each of them a pool noodle and challenge them to stay on the X but use the noodle to "pull" their sheep toward them. This may be hard for younger students, so roll a piece of blue painter's tape in a ball and put it on the end of their noodle. If you have a pretend shepherd's hook in your drama closet at church, bring it to the game with you. Demonstrate how the hook helped the shepherd move the sheep to safety.



When students are done with the pool noodle, have them walk over to a designated area, and drop them in a pile. Be sure to wipe down pool noodles with an appropriate cleaner. Save those noodles because they are useful for so many activities if you have not already invested in a class set.

-Blessing: Let's make a circle and you decide if you would like me to put my hand up above your head or would you like me to make the sign of the cross in your direction while I say the blessing to you. Kids like choices. (Remember since you cannot get close enough to touch you will have to do an air blessing so be sure to look them in the eye to make it meaningful.)



Advent Lesson 4

While the shepherds were preparing to find Jesus, Mary and Joseph were preparing to welcome him into the world. Because everyone had come into the city of Bethlehem for the census, and this was a time long ago when you could not call ahead and reserve a room to stay they could not find a room to rent. They found a stable full of warm animals that would give them shelter. The stable gave Mary a safe place to give birth that very night. Mary was prepared with cloths to swaddle her promised son of God.



What you need to be prepared for the lesson:

Bible

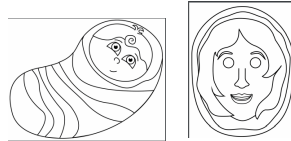
Scissors

Crayons

Stick

Tape

Mary Mask and Baby Jesus



An adult will need to get a Bible and together with your child look up the scripture Luke 2:6-7. If your child is a reader let them read it aloud. It is perfectly normal to read scripture multiple times.

I wonder if Jesus fell asleep in Mary's arms.

I wonder if Mary watched him sleep in the manger.

What do you wonder?

As your child wonders encourage your child to color in the mask of Mary, and Jesus. Share with the child that Mary and Jesus are Middle Eastern Jews so they would most likely have more melanin in their skin. Which means, they would be a soft shade of brown.

When you are finished coloring cut the mask out and attach a stick for the handle of the mask. Cut out the baby Jesus and attach him to the stick right below Mary's head. Practice saying Mary's line, "This is the Christ Child that God promised would come."

You may want to write it on the back of the mask to help you remember. Keep the mask in a safe place with the Shepherd, Joseph and Gabriel mask because you will need it to tell the story later.

Pray: God in heaven, thank you for coming to Earth as the Christ Child to show us, love. Amen

Extensions for lesson 4:

-If you are doing this in a small group at church, take the time to choose a student who can read. Say that you need one person to find the verse and one person to read out loud. Letting one person find the verse gives those who don't like to read a chance to help with scripture. (Give the students hand sanitizer after they passed the Bible to one another.)

-Have the students grab a partner and say their Mary line to the other person at least 6 feet apart. Remind them to say it loudly because their face mask and the Mary mask will block their sound.

-Game: Have the students sit in a large circle. If you have more than 10 kids you will need to have two circles so that they can be physically distant but still be able to hear each other. We are going to play a memory game. One person starts with Mary is going to the stable and she is bringing _____. Each person must list everything the people before them said Mary brought to the stable along with what they would like to add. You can do play a round of real baby things Mary would need to bring. You could then play a round of silly things Mary would bring to the stable. The last person to list all of the items the kids said Mary would bring to the stable gets to choose if they would like to find scripture, read scripture, pray, or lead the blessing.

-Blessing: Let's make a circle and you decide if you would like me to put my hand up above your head or would you like me to make the sign of the cross in your direction while I say the blessing to you. Kids like choices. (Remember since you cannot get close enough to touch you will have to do an air blessing so be sure to look them in the eye to make it meaningful.)



Advent Lesson 5

You are now prepared to share the good news of the Christ Child's birth. You have everything you need to share the story to your family members. Over the last four weeks you have learned the story of Jesus' birth and created great character masks to make your story even more fun for you to tell.



What you need to be prepared for the lesson:

Bible

Gabriel Mask

Joseph Mask

Shepherd Mask

Mary/Jesus Mask

Maybe an adult with video chat for out of the home sharing.

It never hurts to reread a good story. Adults may want to reread these verses to your child. Luke 1:26-33 and Luke 2: 1-20.

Depending on the development of your child and their abilities ask them to lay the mask out in the order we learn them in the story. Gabriel, Joseph, Shepherd, Mary/Jesus

Now ask them to act out using the lines they have learned or wrote on the back of each mask. You may want to practice a couple of times.

Next, ask them to hold their mask up and say the line. They can add more from the story than the line on the mask.

Now tell them they are officially prepared to act out with their mask the Christmas story.

Encourage them to share the story with other people in your household. If family members are far away, Facetime with your family to let your child share the Christmas story. If you like video record your child acting out the Christmas story with their masks and send them to your loved ones to watch over and over again. Your children's minister would love a copy of the video if you are inclined to share.

Pray: God in heaven thank you for giving us a wonderful story of your love for us coming to us as the Christ Child. Help me to share that story of love. Amen

Extension for Lesson 5:

-If you are doing this in a small group at church, take the time to choose a student who can read. Say that you need one person to find the verse and one person to read out loud. Letting one person find the verse gives those who don't like to read a chance to help with scripture. (Give the students hand sanitizer after they passed the Bible to one another.)

-If you didn't send the masks home each week, have the kids get into groups of four with their mask. Let the four actors stand in a physically distant circle and choose what character they want to play. Tell them to work together and act out their Christmas story. IF YOU SENT THE MASKS HOME pre-print the colored masks in sets of four for the number of kids you think you will have. Here is the link to print the masks in color: <https://www.thedatingdivas.com/wp-content/uploads/COLORED-NATIVITY-MASKS.pdf>

Try not to tell them what to act out. Let them come up with their own actions as they retell the story. When each set of four have figured out how they are going to act out the story with their one part, ask which group is ready to share. Have the rest of the groups sit quietly and watch their physically distant Christmas Pageant. Let each group have a turn acting out their Christmas story. (You may want to record each one group to share with their families or on the social media page.)

-Ask if there are four that have loud voices and can tell the character's part of the story on camera. Have your volunteer record each part separately and make and drop into iMovie to use in your online Christmas Eve worship.

-Blessing: The kids have done enough blessings. Ask them if together you all can write a special Christmas blessing. Once it is written as if someone wants to be the person to give the blessing or if they would like you to give the blessing. Let's make a circle and you decide if you would like me to put my hand up above your head or would you like me to make the sign of the cross in your direction while I say the blessing to you. Kids like choices. (Remember since you cannot get close enough to touch you will have to do an air blessing so be sure to look them in the eye to make it meaningful.)

