

STUDENT SUNDAY SCHOOL
4 WEEK ADVENT CURRICULUM
TEACHERS' GUIDE

*Imprimatur: + William Bower, SSC, Episcopus,
Diocese of the Eastern United States
Anglican Catholic Church*

Four Week Advent Curriculum Teachers' Guide

This Anglican Advent lesson supports teachers in guiding students in **Grades 3–8** through the sacred season of **Advent**, a time of preparation, hope, and watchful expectation as we await the coming of Christ.

Advent invites us to slow down, to watch and pray, and to reflect on God's promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It is a season marked by longing, repentance, and hope—looking back to Christ's first coming at Bethlehem and forward to His promised return.

This curriculum offers a simple but rich structure for presenting the themes of Advent with clarity, reverence, and meaningful engagement. Lessons are **Scripture-centered (NKJV)**, easy to adapt for mixed-age classrooms, and designed to help students understand both the biblical foundations of Advent and its place within the Anglican tradition.

What's Included:

- Weekly Scripture reading (NKJV)
- Story summary for teacher presentation
- Discussion questions for Grades 3–5 and Grades 6–8
- Weekly memory verse with age adaptations
- Optional crafts with complete instructions
- Journaling or reflection prompts for older students.

Teaching Notes:

- Begin with the **Opening Routine** found at the front of the curriculum.
- Read the Scripture beforehand. During class, have students read the noted Scriptures (older students may volunteer), and help them retell the story in their own words.
- Guide students to reflect on the themes of **hope, peace, joy, love, repentance, and watchfulness** throughout the season.
- Encourage reverence, thoughtful discussion, and active participation.
- Close each class with prayer and a review of the memory verse.

Advent is a season of preparation and promise. As you teach, invite students to consider how God prepares our hearts to receive Christ and how we are called to live as people of hope while

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we wait for Him. May these lessons deepen their faith and draw them into the beauty and meaning of the Advent season.

For questions or support in using this Anglican Lesson Plan, please contact:

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Advent Sunday School Teacher Guide

Grades 3rd–8th | **Imprimatur:** + *William Bower, SSC, Episcopus, Diocese of the Eastern United States, Anglican Catholic Church*

Teacher Preparation

Before teaching each week's lesson, teachers should prayerfully read the assigned Scripture in advance using the NKJV (or the same Bible version used in class). Familiarity with the passage will help teachers present the lesson clearly, guide discussion thoughtfully, and support students of varying ages and learning styles.

Prepare craft materials ahead of time and review the Candle Lighting Prayer for the week, as this is a central and required part of the Advent lesson.

Opening Routine

Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The Lord's Prayer (Anglican Version)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer (Anglican)

Heavenly Father, we gather today with open hearts and minds to learn about Your love and grace, as revealed through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our ears to hear Your Word, guide our understanding, and fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit, that we may grow in faith and live as Your children. Amen.

Advent Season Overview

Advent is the sacred season of preparation, watchfulness, repentance, and hope as the Church awaits the coming of Jesus Christ. In the life of the Church, Advent serves as a threshold season—quiet, reflective, and deeply expectant—inviting God's people to slow down and prepare their hearts for the mystery of the Incarnation.

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Advent calls us to look in three directions at once. We look backward to Christ's first coming in humility at Bethlehem, where the Son of God entered the world as a child. We look forward to Christ's promised return in glory, when He will come again to judge the living and the dead. And we look inward, asking God to prepare our hearts so that Christ may dwell more fully within us now.

Within the Anglican tradition, Advent is marked by Scripture, prayer, repentance, and the lighting of the Advent wreath. The wreath's unbroken circle reminds us of God's eternal love and faithfulness. The gradual lighting of candles reflects the growing light of Christ entering a world darkened by sin and longing for redemption. Each week focuses on a central theme—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—helping students understand both God's promises and how those promises to shape our daily lives.

This curriculum intentionally follows the same structure used in the Pre-Lent, Lent, and Easter Season Teacher Guides, providing consistency and clarity for teachers. At the same time, it honors Advent's unique liturgical elements, especially the required Candle Lighting Ceremony, which serves as a weekly act of worship and reflection. Together, these lessons help students learn not only the story of Christmas, but how God prepares His people to receive Christ with faith, patience, and joyful expectation.

Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting

Each Advent lesson includes a Candle Lighting Prayer following the Opening Routine. This moment should be treated with reverence and intention.

Candle Colors and Meaning:

Three Purple Candles: Hope, Peace, Love (preparation and repentance)

One Pink Candle: Joy (rejoicing)

White Candle (optional): Christ Candle (Christmas Eve or Christmas Day)

Purple vestments during Advent reflect the season's penitential and expectant nature, while the pink candle reminds us that joy breaks through our waiting.

Teaching Tips by Age Group (General)

Grades 3–4

- Use concrete language and visual aids
- Repeat key truths often
- Emphasize story and symbolism

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Grades 5–6

- Encourage questions and discussion
- Connect Old Testament prophecy with New Testament fulfillment
- Invite a simple personal application

Grades 7–8

- Explore deeper theological meaning
- Use reflection and journaling
- Encourage thoughtful faith connections

Week 1 – Jesus is Foretold by the Prophets

Theme: Hope

Scripture (NKJV Reference Only): Isaiah 9:2–7

Teachers: Begin class with the Opening Routine.

Candle Lighting Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the light of hope. As we light this candle, may we remember the prophets who foretold the coming of Christ. Fill our hearts with hope as we wait for Your promises to be fulfilled. Amen.

Lesson Overview for Teachers

The First Sunday of Advent centers on Hope, grounding students in the promises of God spoken long before Jesus' birth. Through the prophet Isaiah, God assures His people that darkness will not have the final word. A great light is coming, and that light is found in the promised Child—Jesus Christ. This lesson helps students understand that biblical hope is not wishful thinking, but confident trust in God's faithfulness.

Students are invited to see Advent hope as active waiting. God's people waited patiently for the Messiah, trusting that God would fulfill His promises in His perfect time. In the same way, Christians today wait with hope—for Christ's presence in our daily lives and for His return in glory. By reflecting on prophecy and fulfillment, students learn that God keeps His word even when the waiting is long.

This lesson encourages students to connect the theme of hope to their own lives. Whether waiting for answers to prayer, guidance, or healing, Advent reminds us that God is always at work, even when we cannot yet see the outcome. Jesus, the Light of the World, shines into every place of darkness and uncertainty.

Key Teaching Tips by Age Group

Grades 3–4: Hope means trusting God to keep His promises.

Grades 5–6: Prophecy shows God's long-term plan.

Grades 7–8: Hope grows while waiting and trusting God.

Scripture Reading

Read Isaiah 9:2–7 aloud – either the teacher reads, or a volunteer from the class.

Emphasize:

- People walking in darkness see a great light.
- God promises hope even in times of hardship.

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- A Child will be born who will rule with justice and righteousness.
- God is faithful to keep His promises.
- Jesus is the Light of the world.

Memory Verse

Grades 3–5: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” — Isaiah 9:2a

Grades 6–8: The people who walked in darkness, Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. Isaiah 9:2

Key Truths

- God promised a Savior
- Jesus is the Light of the world
- Hope is trusting God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Grades 3–4

1. What did Isaiah promise long before Jesus was born?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is a “light” for us?
3. What is something you are hoping for from God?

Grades 5–6

1. Why do you think Isaiah’s message gave people hope?
2. How does Jesus bring light into our lives?
3. What is one promise from God you can trust this week?

Grades 7–8

1. What does this prophecy teach us about God’s long-term plan?
2. Why is hope important when life feels dark or difficult?
3. How can you prepare your heart during Advent to trust God more deeply?

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CRAFT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS

1. Advent HOPE Candle Craft

Best for Grades 3–6

Materials (per student):

- Purple construction paper
- White/yellow paper for flame
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers

Steps:

1. Cut a rectangle from purple paper to form the candle.
2. Cut a flame shape from yellow or white paper.
3. Glue the flame to the top.
4. Write “HOPE” vertically down the candle.
5. Decorate with simple lines or stars.

Age Adaptations:

Grades 3–4: Pre-cut rectangles and flames.

Grades 5–6: Add Scripture reference Isaiah 9:2.

2. “Light in Darkness” Silhouette-Art

Great for Grades 4–8

Materials:

- Black construction paper
- Yellow or white chalk/colored pencils
- Optional star stickers
- Paper towels for smudging

Steps:

1. On black paper, draw a bright shining star or light beam.
2. Smudge lightly to create a glow effect.
3. Write:
“Jesus is our Light — Isaiah 9:2”
4. Add simple silhouettes (hills, shepherds, or a manger).

Age Adaptations:

Grades 4–5: Keep shapes simple.

Grades 7–8: Use shading techniques.

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3. Hope Jar Activity

Ideal for Grades 5–8

Materials:

- Small paper cups or jars
- Strips of paper
- Pens
- Stickers (optional)

Steps:

1. Students write things they are hoping for or praying for on slips of paper.
2. Place slips in cup/jar labeled “HOPE.”
3. Encourage students to keep their Hope Jar throughout Advent.

Age Adaptations:

Grades 5–6: 2–3 slips.

Grades 7–8: Include deeper personal reflections.

4. Prophecy Scroll Craft

Good for multi-age classes

Materials:

- White paper strips
- two craft sticks or straws
- Glue or tape
- String for tying
- Markers

Steps:

1. Write the verse Isaiah 9:2 on a strip of paper.
2. Glue or tape craft sticks to each end.
3. Roll the scroll from both ends toward the center.
4. Tie lightly with a string.

Age Adaptations:

Grades 3–4: Provide pre-written verses.

Grades 7–8: Add a short reflection on why prophecy matters.

5: Journaling (7th–8th Grade)

Materials

- Journal or lined notebook paper
- Pen or pencil

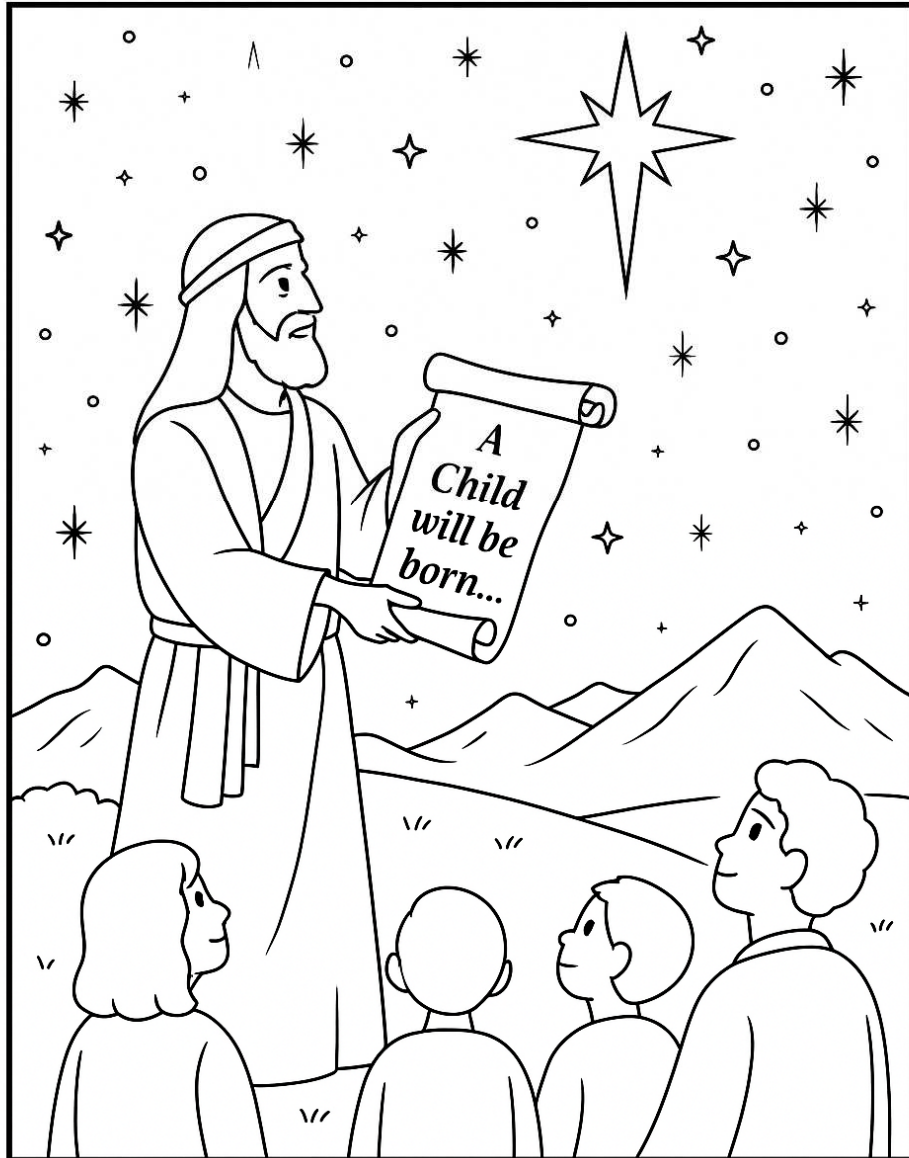
Steps

1. Explain that journaling is private; no one is required to read aloud.
2. Give students 7–10 minutes of quiet writing time.
3. Write the prompt clearly so that all can see:
“How does waiting for Jesus help you trust God more?”

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4. After writing time, invite students (if they wish) to share one sentence or one word they wrote.
5. Close with a short prayer asking God to help them live what they have written.

HOPE



Week 2 – Gabriel Visits Mary & Mary Visits Elizabeth

Candle Lighting Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the light of peace. As we light this candle, may we remember the angel's message to Mary. Help us to trust in You and know that Your peace is with us always. Amen.

Theme: PEACE

Scripture: *Isaiah 11:1–6*

LESSON OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

The Second Sunday of Advent focuses on **Peace**, revealing God's plan to restore harmony to a broken world through the coming Messiah. Isaiah's prophecy speaks of a righteous King from the line of Jesse who will rule with justice, wisdom, and faithfulness. The peaceful imagery of animals living together reminds students that God's peace reaches far beyond human understanding—it brings wholeness and restoration.

This lesson helps students understand that biblical peace, often described by the word *shalom*, is more than the absence of conflict. It is the presence of God bringing things back into right relationship—with Him and with one another. Jesus brings peace to our hearts by reconciling us to God, and He calls His followers to live as peacemakers in their homes, schools, and communities.

Students are encouraged to consider how they can reflect Christ's peace in everyday situations. Advent peace teaches patience, forgiveness, and trust, reminding us that even while the world remains broken, God's kingdom of peace has already begun through Jesus.

TEACHING TIPS BY AGE GROUP

Grades 3–4

- Explain peace as “getting along,” “being kind,” and “calm in our hearts.”
- Use concrete pictures like the wolf and lamb.
- Invite them to share simple ways they can bring peace at home or school.

Grades 5–6

- Discuss why peace can be difficult and why we need the Holy Spirit's help.
- Explore Jesus as the “Prince of Peace.”
- Use role-play or practical examples of peacemaking.

Grades 7–8

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- Go deeper into biblical peace (shalom): wholeness, harmony, restoration.
- Discuss brokenness in the world and why Jesus alone can fix it.
- Encourage personal reflection about relationships that need healing.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read *Isaiah 11:1–6* aloud – either the teacher reads, or a volunteer from the class.

Emphasize:

- A shoot will come from Jesse’s stump.
- The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him.
- He will judge with righteousness.
- Peace will transform creation (wolf with lamb, child leading them)

Explain that Isaiah is describing the Messiah—Jesus—who brings peace through His kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE (NKJV)

*“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.*

— Isaiah 11:6a.

Short version for Grades 3–4:

“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb.”

KEY TRUTHS

- Jesus is the Prince of Peace.
- God brings peace to our hearts and relationships.
- One day Jesus will bring perfect peace to the world.
- We are called to be peacemakers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Grades 3–4

1. What animals will live peacefully together in the prophecy?
2. What does Jesus bring to our hearts?
3. How can you be peaceful at home or school?

Grades 5–6

1. Why is Jesus called the “Prince of Peace”?
2. What kinds of things disturb peace in our lives?
3. What is one way you can bring peace to someone this week?

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Grades 7–8

1. What does biblical peace (shalom) really mean?
2. Why does the world need Jesus' peace today?
3. Is there a relationship in your life that needs peace or forgiveness?

CRAFT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS

1. Peaceful Animals Craft – Wolf & Lamb

Best for Grades 3–5

Materials

- White paper
- Construction paper (gray, white, brown)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Steps

1. Cut simple shapes for a lamb (white) and a wolf (gray).
2. Glue both animals onto a background sheet side by side.
3. Write the memory verse at the top.
4. Add grass, sky, or simple scenery.

Age Adaptations

Grades 3–4: Use pre-traced animal shapes.

Grades 5: Encourage students to draw their own animals.

2. Peace Banner – “Prince of Peace.”

Great for Grades 4–8

Materials

- Half sheet cardstock
- Markers or colored pencils
- Optional: star or dove stickers

Steps

1. Fold cardstock to make a banner shape (triangle tip down).
2. Write “Prince of Peace” across the top.
3. Draw symbols of peace: dove, olive branch, star, calm river.
4. Add Scripture reference Isaiah 11:6.

Age Adaptations

Grades 4–5: Focus on simple symbols.

Grades 7–8: Add shading, Scripture, and detailed imagery.

3. “Peace Starts with Me” Mirror Card

Perfect for Grades 5–8

Materials

- A small piece of foil
- Index cards or cardstock
- Glue
- Pens

Steps

1. Glue a small piece of foil to the card as a “mirror.”
2. Write above it: “Peace starts with me.”
3. Write a prayer or commitment below:
“Lord, help me bring peace to...”
4. Students fill in names or situations.

Age Adaptations

Grades 5–6: Keep writing short.

Grades 7–8: Write deeper reflections.

4. Peace Wreath (Mini Paper Craft)

Good for all ages

Materials

- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Red dot stickers (optional)
- Ribbon for hanging

Steps

1. Cut a circular ring from green paper.
2. Cut leaf shapes and glue around the ring.
3. Write “Prince of Peace” at the top.
4. Add small red dots or a bow if desired.

Age Adaptations

Grades 3–4: Provide pre-cut leaves.

Grades 5–6: Students cut and design their own.

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5: Journaling (7th–8th Grade)

Materials

- Journal or lined notebook paper
- Pen or pencil

Steps

1. Explain that journaling is private; no one is required to read aloud.
2. Give students 7–10 minutes of quiet writing time.
3. Write the prompt clearly so that all can see:
“Where do you need God’s peace in your life right now?”
4. After writing time, invite students (if they wish) to share one sentence or one word they wrote.
5. Close with a short prayer asking God to help them live what they have written.



Week 3 – The Angels Visit the Shepherds

Candle Lighting Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the light of joy. As we light this candle, may we remember the angels' good news to the shepherds. Fill us with joy that overflows into the lives of others. Amen.

Theme: JOY

Scripture: *Luke 1:39–47*

LESSON OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

The Third Sunday of Advent celebrates **Joy**, focusing on the deep and lasting joy that comes from trusting in God's promises. In Mary's visit to Elizabeth, we witness joy overflowing as God's plan of salvation unfolds. Elizabeth rejoices, and Mary responds with praise, recognizing that God has chosen to work through her remarkably.

This lesson helps students distinguish between happiness, which depends on circumstances, and joy, which is rooted in faith. Mary's joy does not come from an easy future—she faces uncertainty and risk—but from her confidence in God's faithfulness. Her example teaches students that true joy flows from believing God's Word and surrendering to His will.

Students are invited to reflect on how joy can remain present even during difficult seasons. Advent joy strengthens faith, encourages gratitude, and points us toward the hope found in Christ alone.

TEACHING TIPS BY AGE GROUP

Grades 3–4

- Keep joy simple: "Joy is God's happiness in our hearts."
- Emphasize Mary's faith and trust in God.
- Use concrete examples of joy (helping others, singing, celebrating).
- Short coloring or singing activities work well here.

Grades 5–6

- Discuss the difference between happiness (based on circumstances) and joy (based on faith).
- Talk about how Mary believed in God even though her future felt uncertain.
- Encourage students to share moments they felt God-given joy.

Grades 7–8

- Reflect deeper on joy as spiritual strength.
- Talk about Mary's courage, obedience, and humility.
- Use discussion-based or journaling activities to help them explore joy during trials.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Read *Luke 1:39–47* aloud – either the teacher reads, or a volunteer from the class.

Emphasize:

- Mary travels to visit Elizabeth.
- Elizabeth’s baby leaps for joy
- Elizabeth blesses Mary.
- Mary’s joyful song: “My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.”
- Explain that Mary and Elizabeth rejoiced because God was keeping His promises.

MEMORY VERSE (NKJV)

“My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.”

— Luke 1:47

Short version for Grades 3–4:

“My spirit has rejoiced.”

KEY TRUTHS

- Joy comes from knowing God.
- God keeps His promises, and that gives us joy.
- Joy is different from happiness—it lasts even in hard times.
- We can share joy with others through love and kindness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Grades 3–4

1. Why did Elizabeth’s baby leap for joy?
2. Why was Mary joyful?
3. What brings you joy from God?

Grades 5–6

1. What is the difference between joy and happiness?
2. How did Mary show trust in God?
3. What is something God has done that gives you joy?

Grades 7–8

1. What does Mary’s response teach us about joyful obedience?
2. How can joy remain even when life is difficult?
3. What promise of God brings you joy today?

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CRAFT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS

1. Joy Ornament Craft

Best for Grades 3–6

Materials

- White cardstock circles
- Markers
- Ribbon
- Optional stickers or glitter glue

Steps

1. Cut or hand out cardstock circles for ornaments.
2. Write “JOY” in large letters across the center.
3. Add the memory verse on the back.
4. Decorate with stars, hearts, or simple patterns.
5. Punch a hole and attach ribbon for hanging.

Age Adaptations

Grades 3–4: Pre-cut circles

Grades 5–6: Encourage unique lettering or borders.

2. Mary’s Song Mini-Scroll

Ideal for Grades 4–8

Materials

- White paper strip
- two craft sticks
- Glue or tape
- Markers

Steps

1. Write *Luke 1:47* or the opening line of the Magnificat on the strip.
2. Attach craft sticks to the ends.
3. Roll the scroll inward from both sides.
4. Tie loosely with a string.

Students can decorate simple flourishes if desired.

Age Adaptations

Grades 4–5: Keep writing simple.

Grades 7–8: Add a short written reflection.

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3. Joyful Hearts Activity

Good for Grades 3–5

Materials

- Construction paper hearts
- Markers
- Glue
- Optional: small gift bows

Steps

1. Give each student a heart shape.
2. Write inside: “I have joy because God...”
3. Students complete the sentence.
4. Decorate around the heart.
5. Glue the heart to a background paper.

Age Adaptations

Grades 3–4: Provide writing starters.

Grades 5–6: Encourage fuller sentences.

4. “Joy vs. Happiness” T-Chart

Great for Grades 6–8

Materials

- Paper
- Pens

Steps

1. Draw two columns: Happiness and Joy.
2. Students list examples for each.
3. Discuss which lasts longer and why.
4. Write at the bottom:

“Joy comes from God.”

Age Adaptations

Grades 6: Provide examples to sort.

Grades 8: Encourage deeper contrasts.

5: Journaling (7th–8th Grade)

Materials

- Journal or lined notebook paper
- Pen or pencil

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Steps

1. Explain that journaling is private; no one is required to read aloud.
2. Give students 7–10 minutes of quiet writing time.
3. Write the prompt clearly so that all can see:
“What promise of God brings you joy today?”
4. After writing time, invite students (if they wish) to share one sentence or one word they wrote.
5. Close with a short prayer asking God to help them live what they have written.



Week 4 – Jesus is Born in Bethlehem

Candle Lighting Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the light of love. As we light this candle, may we remember that You sent Your Son Jesus out of love for the whole world. Help us to show Your love to others this Christmas. Amen.

Theme: LOVE

Scripture: *1 John 4:7–11*

LESSON OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

The Fourth Sunday of Advent centers on **Love**, the very heart of God revealed through the gift of Jesus Christ. Scripture teaches that love originates with God and is made visible through His action—sending His Son into the world so that we might live through Him. As Christmas draws near, students are reminded that the birth of Jesus is the ultimate expression of God’s love for humanity.

This lesson emphasizes that love is not merely a feeling, but a choice demonstrated through action. God’s love is sacrificial, generous, and faithful, and it calls believers to respond by loving others in the same way. Advent love prepares students to welcome Christ not only as a baby in the manger, but as the Savior who transforms how we live.

Students are encouraged to see love as something they practice daily—through kindness, patience, forgiveness, and service—reflecting the love they have first received from God.

TEACHING TIPS BY AGE GROUP

Grades 3–4

- Keep love simple and concrete: kindness, sharing, helping.
- Emphasize “God loves YOU” personally.
- Use short examples of loving actions at home or school.
- Crafts involving hearts or giving work well.

Grades 5–6

- Discuss how God’s love is unconditional and goes beyond emotion.
- Explain “God showed His love” through Jesus coming to earth.
- Encourage them to think about ways they can show love within friendships.

Grades 7–8

- Explore sacrificial love—agape—love that gives without expecting in return.
- Talk about how Jesus’ incarnation is the ultimate expression of God’s love.
- Encourage deeper reflection on how they can show Christlike love in challenges.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Read *1 John 4:7–11* - either the teacher reads, or a volunteer from the class.

Emphasize:

- Love comes from God.
- Everyone who loves is born of God.
- God showed His love by sending His only Son.
- We ought to love one another.
- Help students understand that loving others is a response to God loving us first.

MEMORY VERSE (NKJV)

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.”

— 1 John 4:7a.

Short version for Grades 3–4:

“Let us love one another.”

KEY TRUTHS

- God is love and the source of love.
- Jesus is God’s greatest gift of love.
- We love others because God first loved us.
- Love is shown through actions, not just feelings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Grades 3–4

1. Who does love come from?
2. How did God show His love for us?
3. What is one loving thing you can do this week?

Grades 5–6

1. What makes God’s love different from human love?
2. How does Jesus' coming to earth show God’s love?
3. Who can you show God’s love to today?

Grades 7–8

1. What is sacrificial love, and how did Jesus show it?
2. Why is loving others sometimes difficult?
3. What does it look like to love someone “because God first loved us”?

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CRAFT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS

1. Love Chain Countdown

Best for Grades 3–5

Materials

- Strips of construction paper
- Markers
- Glue or tape

Steps

1. Give each student 5–7 strips.
2. On each strip, write a way to show love (share, help, forgive, pray).
3. Link the strips into a paper chain.
4. Students take one link off each day as a “Love in Action” reminder.

Age Adaptations

Grades 3–4: Provide examples to copy.

Grades 5: Encourage them to create their own list.

2. Agape Heart Craft

Ideal for Grades 4–8

Materials

- White or red cardstock hearts
- Markers
- Glue
- Optional: tissue paper, ribbon

Steps

1. Write “God is Love” or *1 John 4:7* across the heart.
2. Add words or symbols representing God’s love (cross, manger, light).
3. Optional: Decorate with tissue paper around edges or add a ribbon hanger.

Age Adaptations

Grades 4–5: Keep decorations simple.

Grades 7–8: Write a brief reflection or prayer on the back.

3. “Loved First” Mirror Card

Great discussion tool for Grades 6–8

Materials

- Index card or cardstock
- Small square of foil

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- Glue
- Pens

Steps

1. Glue foil as a small mirror on the card.
2. Above it, write: “God loved me first.”
3. Under it, write a commitment: “So I will love others by ____.”
4. Reflect silently or share.

4. Love in Action Skits

Fun for any age group

Materials

- None needed
- Optional: simple props

Steps

1. Assign small groups a “love in action” prompt:
2. Helping someone lonely
3. Showing kindness when upset
4. Forgiving someone
5. Including someone left out.
6. Groups perform short skits.
7. Discuss: “Which actions showed God’s love?”

5: Journaling (7th–8th Grade)

Materials

- Journal or lined notebook paper
- Pen or pencil

Steps

1. Explain that journaling is private; no one is required to read aloud.
2. Give students 7–10 minutes of quiet writing time.
3. Write the prompt clearly so that all can see:
“How can you show God’s love to someone this week?”
4. After writing time, invite students (if they wish) to share one sentence or one word they wrote.
5. Close with a short prayer asking God to help them live what they have written.

♥ LOVE:
Jesus is Born in Bethlehem

