

Second Sunday of Advent – year A

Preparation

Read [Isaiah 11:1-10](#) and [Matthew 3:1-12](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_4242_ENG_HTM.htm

<http://www.textweek.com/yeara/adventa2.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-awag.htm#ad2> – word puzzles

<http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/pdf/Old/Curr144.pdf>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/voice_in_the_wilderness.htm

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/john.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/advm2les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/a/2Advent-a/A-2Advent-a.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Advent Wreath
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Blue or purple cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the blue/purple cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Advent wreath and the Bible on the cloth. Light the first two candles. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God of new beginnings, be with us today.

Loving Jesus of new light, be with us today.

Loving Spirit of new hope, be with us today. Amen.

Blow out the candles. Yell ‘Get Ready!’ as loudly as you can. The children will probably be startled. Now yell it again! Ask the children what they think you were yelling ‘Get Ready!’ for. *Wait for their responses.* If no one has suggested getting ready for Christmas and the coming of Jesus, tell the children this is why you were yelling. Explain that sometimes we have to make a lot of noise to get people to hear us, especially when there are lots of other things going on. In today’s story they will hear about two prophets, Isaiah & John the Baptist, who had lots to say when there was lots going on in the world. Ask them to listen carefully to what these messengers of God have to tell us.

Story Time

Materials

- piece of rough cloth
- jar of honey
- plain crackers
- knife and paper towels

Instructions

- Place the materials needed for the story to one side
- Teach the children the following chant to be used throughout the story:

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

A prophet of God appeared in the wilderness. His name is John the Baptist. He lived out in the wilderness and lived off of what God gave him through the land, honey and other good things. He wore rough clothing (pass around the piece of rough clothing for the children to feel. Spread honey on the crackers and give each child one to eat.)

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(Pass around the piece of rough clothing for the children to feel. Spread honey on the crackers and give each child one to eat.)

This prophet knew that he had a special message to share from God. He remembered the message that the prophet Isaiah had to share with the people.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

This is what John the Baptist remembered that the prophet Isaiah had to tell the people:

A new tree will grow out of the shoot of Jesse. Jesse who was the father of King David, the greatest of Israel's kings. A new king will come to be with the people. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him. He will judge the people well. He will take care of the poor and those who live on the edge. God will come to live with the people.

This is how you shall now that this time is here. A wolf will live with a lamb. A lion will walk with a calf. A little child shall lead them. Everyone will live together in peace on God's holy mountain. The world will flower with God's love.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

John the Baptist knew that he was the one to prepare the people for the coming of God's son, for the coming of Jesus. He knew that he had to start getting people ready for the coming of God's future. He knew that he had to share the vision of God, the message of God, with the people.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

People from all over came to listen to what John the Baptist had to say. They saw they had to change their lives. They knew that John the Baptist was telling them a good thing. They came to the Jordan river and John baptized them in the river. They promised to live the way that God was calling them to live.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

Now some of the people who came to listen to what John the Baptist had to say were upset with him. They knew it would mean changes for the way that they had to live and they didn't want to make those changes. John the Baptist told them this, "I baptize with water. The one who is coming after me, is greater than me. I am not worthy to untie his shoes. He will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Spirit. Get ready for he is coming soon."

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

Response

Project Idea 1: Vision of the Future Poster

Looking towards the coming of Jesus and making God's kingdom alive in our world is the mission for all Christians. This activity will engage the children in God's vision for the future.

Materials needed

- newsprint
- markers
- poster board (one piece for every 2 or 3 children)
- magazines
- scissors
- glue

Instructions

Put up a piece of newsprint. Write the word '**Future**' on the newsprint. Ask the children to think of all the positive things they would like the world to look like if they had their way. Write up their ideas on the newsprint. Now give every 2 or 3 children a piece of poster board and have them print in the middle of it '**God's Future Our Future**'. Have them look through the magazines for pictures that show the vision of the future that they described earlier together. If needed remind them of the ideas of that they named earlier. Have them cut out the pictures and create a vision of the future. If they want have them print their hope idea under the picture they have chosen when they have glued it onto the poster board. With the children choose a place that their posters can be placed so that they can share with others their vision of the future.

Project Idea 2: Jesse Tree

The tradition of a Jesse Tree comes from the Isaiah passage that is part of today's readings. This activity will encourage the children to keep the images in front of them as they get ready for Christmas.

Materials needed

- Jesse Tree images at the end of the lesson
- green and blue construction paper
- scissors, glue, hole punch
- pencil crayons or markers
- ribbon or yarn
- glitter or glitter glue
- clear tape
- small resealable plastic bags

Instructions

Copy the tree image first, cut it out and trace onto green construction paper. Make two for each child. Cut out the trees. On one tree make a slit down the centre from the top to just over halfway down. On the other tree make a slit from the bottom that goes almost halfway up. Make a copy of the smaller images – so that each child will have a full set. Give the children a set of the images. Have them colour them and then cut them out and glue them onto the blue construction paper. As you they colour the images remind them John the Baptist remembered these images as he spoke to the people about the coming of Jesus. When they have the images glued on to the blue construction paper have them cut them out carefully leaving a frame of blue around the image. Punch a hole into each image and tie a piece of ribbon or yarn through the hole. Give the children the two trees and have them carefully slide the slit from the one tree down through the slit of the other tree. This will give the children a 3D image of a tree. Have the children tape one image on to their trees today. Give them a resealable bag to put the rest of the images in. Invite them to put up their trees at home and to add an image a day over the next nine days and remember what John the Baptist had to say about preparing for Jesus.

Project Idea 3: Ornament – Star

Stars have been used since ancient times as a travel guide. The Christmas star helps to remind us all of the journey we need to make to see Jesus.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- scissors
- stapler with staples
- glitter glue
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon

Instructions

Fold the construction with one corner going to the opposite edge. Cut off the excess so that you have a square left. Make at least two of these for each child. With the children fold the construction paper square into an accordion with six equal parts. Staple it in the middle along the folded edge. Make rounded corners by cutting of the end edges with scissors. Open it up into a circular shape. Staple the two parts that are on the edge together – close to the centre of the star. Spread out the star so that it will hold its shape. Punch a hole with the hole punch in one of the star points. Tie a piece of ribbon or yarn through it to make a loop to hang the ornament from. With the glitter glue have the children decorate the edges of the star. Encourage the children to think about who they would like to give their other star to – in order to remind them that Jesus is on the way.

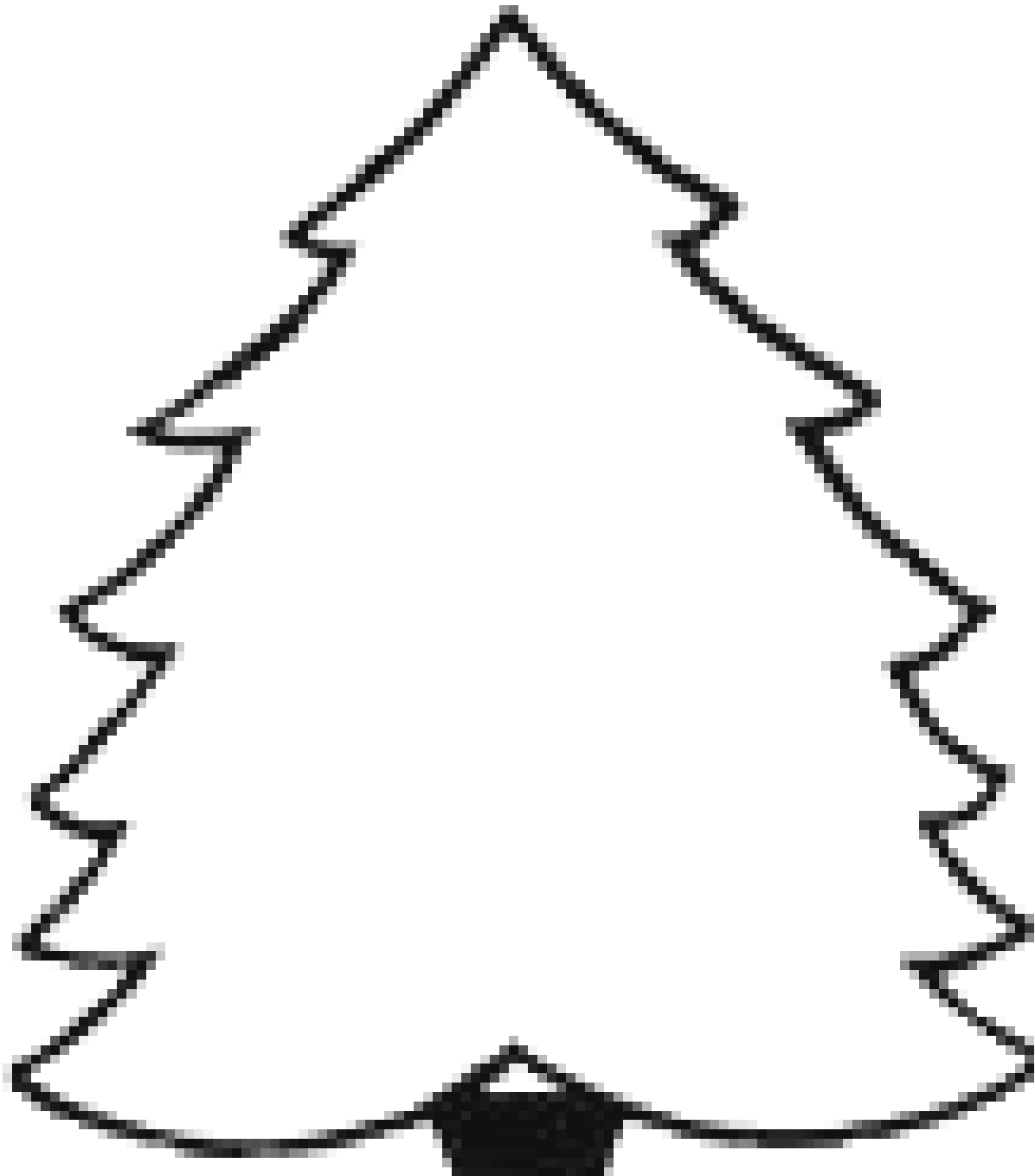
Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle.
Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

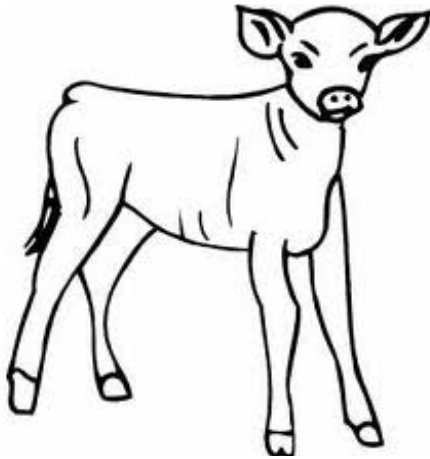
**O God renew our hearts with love
As we journey to Bethlehem
O Jesus guide us in our dreams of hope
As we journey to Bethlehem
O Spirit give us visions of joy
As we journey to Bethlehem. Amen.**

Jesse Tree Images

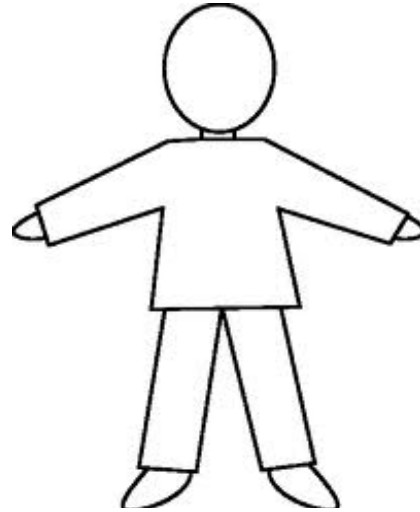
A Tree



Calf



Child



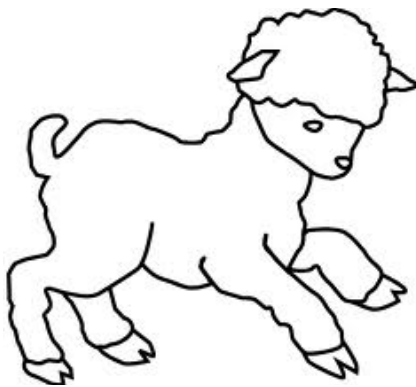
Earth in Hand



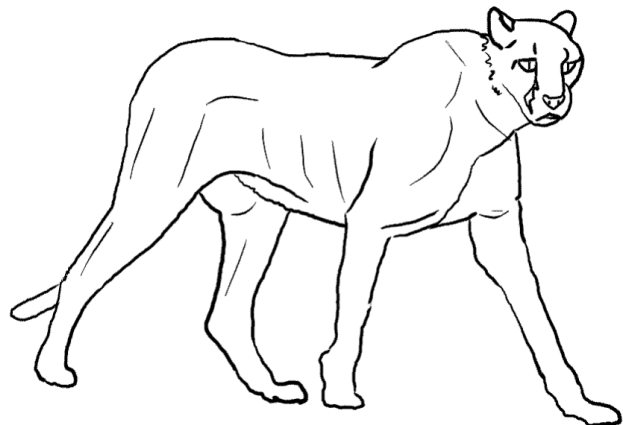
Happy Face



Lamb



Lion



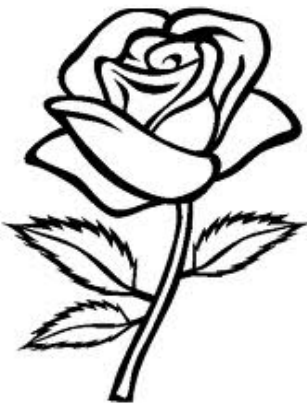
Mountain



Tree with Roots



Rose



Wolf

