

Second Sunday of Advent – year B

Preparation

Read [Isaiah 40:1-11](#) and [Mark 1:1-8](#) over. 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.textweek.com/yearb/adventb2.htm>

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

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/advent2-king-is-coming.html>

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

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

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwag.htm#ad2>

Gathering

Materials needed

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

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 cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Advent wreath, and the Bible on the cloth. Light the first candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**God be with us, as we prepare,
Jesus be with us, as we prepare,
Holy Spirit be with us, as we prepare,
Keep our hearts open for the coming new day. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Ask the children how they know to get from place to place. Listen to their responses. Ask the children if any of them have been on a long road trip. Lay out the map for the children. If you have been on a journey show them where you went on the map. Ask the children what they and their families do to get ready for the journey. How do they make themselves comfortable for their journeys? Explain that in today's story they are going to meet John the Baptist who helped the people of God to get ready for their journey with Jesus.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story – on the floor with cushions or around a table
- A head scarf or towel

Instructions

Place the head scarf or towel around your head.

This story will be told from the perspective of John the Baptist.

Hello children. It is so wonderful to see all of you here today. My name is John. I have a story to tell you. It is about a special time for the whole world. God's people were waiting for God to do something. They wanted to know that God still cared for them. They wanted God to give them comfort in their lives.

The people were remembering the words of the prophet Isaiah. The prophet had told them God wanted to bring the people comfort. God wanted the people to come back into a good relationship with God.

God sent me to live in the wilderness. I took time to pray. I took to listen to what God wanted me to do. God gave me a purpose. I had to prepare the people for the coming of God's son. I had to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. God gave me a message for the people. This is what I told them:

Prepare, prepare the way of God.

It is time to make straight the paths the people walk on.

It is time to get ready for the coming of God's Son.

Prepare, prepare the way of God. *(Take time to pause between the stanzas.)*

Prepare, prepare the way of God.

I am the voice crying in the wilderness.

It is time to get ready for the coming of God's Son.

Prepare, prepare the way of God.

I told the people that God wanted them to live better lives. I told them that they needed to get baptized to get ready for the coming of God's son. I told the people that needed to ask God for forgiveness for the way they were living. Do you know what happened children?

Let me tell you. People from all over came to see me. They came to hear my message from God. They came to ask God to be forgiven their sins. They came to be baptized. They came to get ready for the coming of God's Son.

I had one more thing that I had to tell the people. I needed to tell them more about the coming of God's Son. I told them that Jesus would be more powerful than me and that I was not worthy to untie his shoes for him. I told the people that I had baptized them with water and Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

Thank you children for listening to my story. Remember what I told you about getting ready for the coming of Jesus:

Prepare, prepare the way of God.

I am the voice crying in the wilderness.

It is time to get ready for the coming of God's Son.

Prepare, prepare the way of God.

Take off the head scarf or towel. Give the children a few moments to reflect on the story they have just heard.

Response

Project 1: Advent Journey Map

To help the children connect with the idea of being on a journey with God, this response will give them a way to mark the rest of the journey through Advent.

Materials needed

- Advent Journey Map at end of lesson
- blue construction paper or poster board
- silver or gold star stickers – 22 for each child
- glue and markers

Instructions

Make each child a copy of the map. Give each child the map and a piece of the blue construction paper/poster board. With the children look over the map – point out to the children the start date – which is today’s date- and how the map makes its way to Christmas Day.

Younger children option: Have the children glue their map onto the blue paper. Help them to print “**Advent Journey Map**” across the top. Have the children stick one star on today’s date. Explain that they are to put a star on each day throughout the rest of Advent and think about how they can get prepared for the coming of Jesus.

Older children option: Have the children glue their map onto the blue paper. Get them to print “**Advent Journey Map**” across the top. With the children brainstorm different ways that they could get prepared for the coming of Jesus. Have them put some of those ideas by different days on the calendar. Get them put a star on the first day. Explain that they should put a star on for each day through the rest of Advent and take the time to do the different activities that they have come up with.

Project 2: Preparing the Manger

Manger boxes will help the children to see that their actions of comfort can have an impact on those that they live with, go to school with and play with every day.

Materials needed

- small boxes without lids
- blue tissue paper
- glue
- silver or gold star stickers
- yellow yarn
- small resealable plastic bags

Instructions

Cut the yellow yarn into 15 cm (6 inch) lengths. Place a good handful of cut up yarn into the resealable bags. Give each child a small box, enough blue tissue paper to cover the outside and some glue. While the children are covering the outside of their boxes with the tissue paper talk with them about acts of comfort that they can do for others during this Advent season to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Once they have the boxes covered let them decorate them with the stars. Explain that every time they do something for someone else or see someone else doing a good thing for someone else that they are to put another piece of yarn into their box. Tell the children that what they are doing is preparing a manger for the Baby Jesus and helping God to bring about the kingdom here on earth. Give the children a resealable bag of yarn to go with their boxes.

Project 3: Prepare Bells

Bells call us to church, bells ring out emergencies, bells help us to get prepared. With these bells the children will be able to work on preparing for the coming of Jesus.

Materials needed

- plain paper or styrofoam cups
- pipe cleaners
- small jingle bells
- markers
- star stickers

Instructions

Lay out the items for the craft. Explain that they are going to make bells today. Tell them that bells are used to call people to church and to get us to pay attention to something. The bells that they are going to make today are to help remind them and their families to be prepared for the coming of Jesus. Help the children to string a bell onto a pipe cleaner. Poke a hole into the bottom of the cup. Fold a pipe cleaner in half and place the folded end through the hole in cup bottom. Tie the ends together. Take the pipe cleaner with the bell on it and loop through the other pipe cleaner – tie the ends of that one together. Pull the top pipe cleaner tight at the top. Use the star stickers and markers to decorate the bells. You might want to have the children write words like ‘prepare’ and ‘get ready’ on the outside of the bell as well. Encourage the children to hang up their bells at home for their families.

Closing

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

**For a time to share,
For a time to learn,
For a time to prepare,
We thank you God.
Amen.**

Advent Journey Map

