

## Week One - Advent — Hope

### Teaching about Advent:

Today is special because it is the beginning of a new season. We call this season "Advent."

"Advent" is a word that means "to come." It is a time when we get ready, preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus came when he was born on Christmas day.

What are some things that we might do to get ready?

What we are doing right now around our Advent wreath is a way of preparing for Christmas. This is the first Sunday in Advent.

Today, we light one purple candle.

The traditional color for Advent is purple which refers to the coming of the royal King, Jesus Christ. Purple is also a deep color that symbolizes spiritual darkness outside the light of Christ.

The first candle is the candle of hope.

*(Light the first candle.)* I lit this candle to remind us that we wait with hope for the day when we celebrate again the birth of Jesus. We hope that everyone will come to know God and worship God.

**All:** Sing or Listen to: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" <https://youtu.be/AlylvEkpJzw>

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God spoke through prophets in the Old Testament to tell people that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come. This candle of hope is symbolic of the long years of waiting and hoping for when Jesus Christ would come to save the people from their sins. Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah.

**Read:** Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**Read:** Isaiah 9:2- The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

**Say:** The prophet Isaiah reminds us of the hope that God gives us in Jesus Christ. We have many lights around us at Christmas time.

The lights can remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

**Prayer:** Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth, just like the prophets said, and for your promise to come again. Thank you, Jesus, for being our light so we know how to live.  
AMEN

**Family Discussion:**

What is hope?

Who are the people in our world who need hope?

What are the hopes we have for our world today?

How do we help others know that God gives hope?