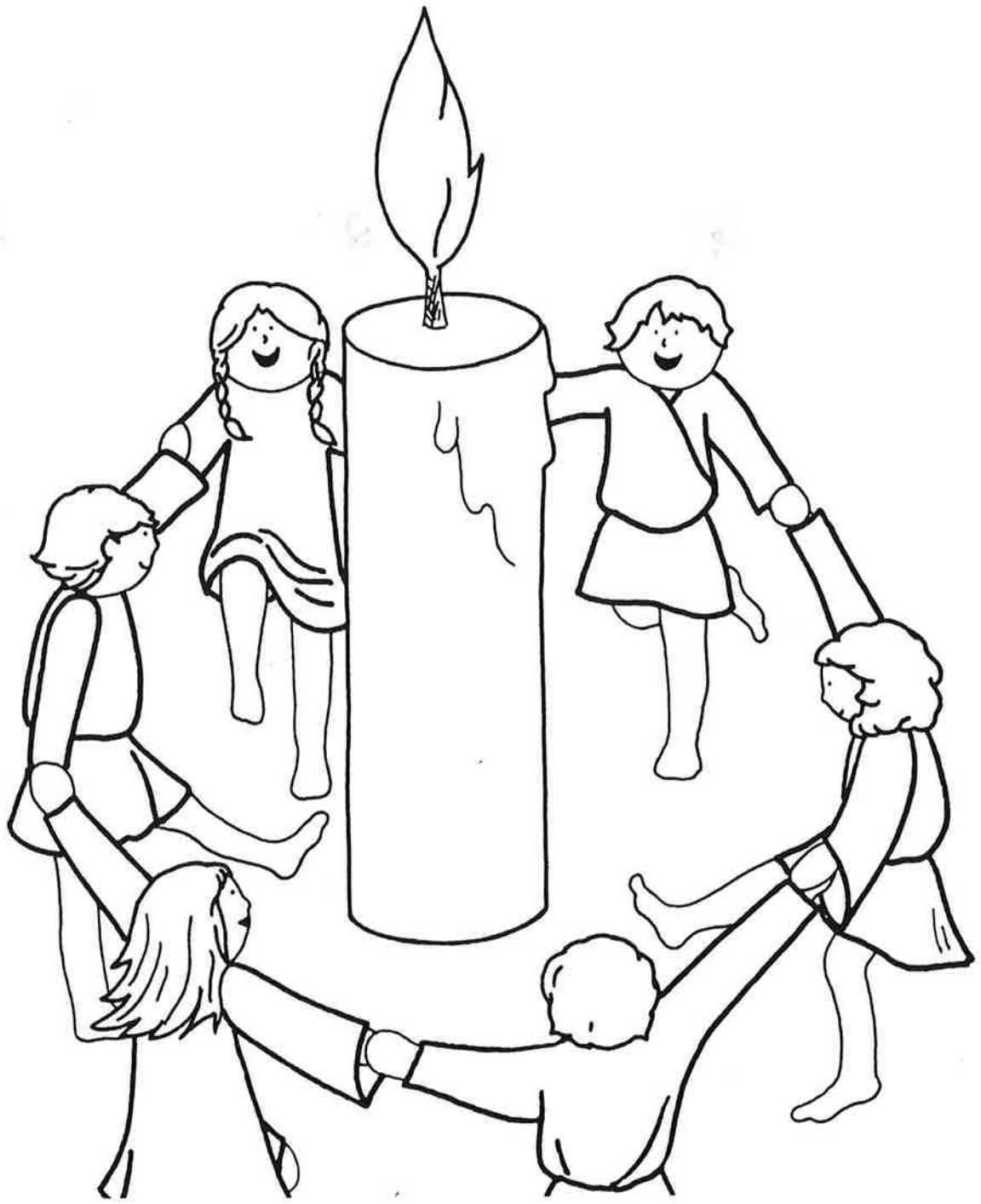




Advent I - The Prophet

37-1



A Good Shepherd Story of Jesus

Advent I The Prophet

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INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT

The Good Shepherd Program is an ideal vehicle for the celebration of the season of Advent. It is an easy way to show the children in a touchable, concrete way the four weeks of "waiting and getting ready".

The stage is set for Advent by using an underlay that changes from purple to white. The underlay is 45 x 12 inches. The purple fabric on one end is 36 x 12 inches and the white fabric on the other end is 9 x 12 inches. The underlay is rolled up with the white end to the inside and unrolled a little each week of Advent. There is great anticipation as the children eventually see the white piece appear. They actually see us approach the holy season of Christmas.

The Advent cards are used each week as the stories are shared. The first week only the card with one candle on it is used. The second week that card and the one with two candles on it are used. And so on. Each week we begin with card one, repeating in a shorter version each part of the Advent story, while adding the current week's story at the end.

Each week the card is placed on the underlay, the appropriate wooden figures from the Advent/Nativity set are placed above each card and a candle is placed next to the figures. The set becomes a horizontal Advent wreath. Just like we light the candles of the Advent wreath, so here we light the candles of the Advent story. The children are encouraged to take the Advent basket from the shelf and see if they can tell the story each week. Since matches are the only thing in the Good Shepherd room that must not be used by children, they are reminded to ask for adult help in the lighting of the candles as they tell the stories.

Each lesson of Advent contains an explanation of the candle used on the given week as well as telling you which wooden figures and Advent cards are to be used. During the "circle of light" be sure to place the appropriate bookmark representing each week's story in the Good Shepherd classroom Bible. This allows the children, non-readers as well as readers, to become familiar with where the Advent stories are found in the Bible.

Each week we emphasize the waiting and getting ready for the birth of Jesus. Those exact words may not be used, but the message is sent to the listeners that the incarnation of Christ into this world is a time of great joy and wonder. That is the message of Advent.

ADVENT....MATERIALS

The large Advent basket on the shelf contains:

- the underlay
- set of Advent cards
- 5 candleholders
- 3 purple candles
- 1 pink candle
- 1 white candle
- 1 smaller basket to carry the wooden figures from the Advent/Nativity set
- 3 small metal covered containers holding:
 - a small piece of "gold"
 - frankincense that has been lit and blown out
 - myrrh on a piece of cotton or cloth

The Advent/Nativity set on the shelf contains:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| - prophet | - wiseman I |
| - annunciation angel | - wiseman II |
| - Mary | - wiseman III |
| - Joseph | - gift, round |
| - shepherd's angel | - gift, rectangle |
| - shepherd | - gift, pentagon |
| - shepherd with staff | - baby Jesus in manger |
| - shepherd boy | - stable |
| - 2 sheep | - cow |
| - star | - donkey |

Items from the worship shelf:

- candle snuffer
- matches



Prophet

ADVENT I, The Prophet.....ISAIAH 9:2

ACTIONS

After speaking, go to the shelf and remove the basket containing the Advent cards. After placing it on the floor, get the wooden prophet figure from the Advent set. Also get the matches and snuffer from the worship shelf.

Allow 10-15 seconds of silence while you reverently touch the purple cloth or the prophet figure.

Unroll about 10 inches of the purple end of the underlay. Slowly smooth the fabric.

Shake your head slowly.

Touch the palms of each hand with middle finger of the other hand. (sign for hearing impaired meaning "Jesus")

Place the wooden prophet figure to side front of the exposed purple underlay.

Touch the prophet figure gently.

WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

All the words to this story are inside of me. Will you make silence with me please so I can find all the words to my story?

This cloth is purple because we are in a special time of waiting and getting ready.

That time is called Advent.

The people of God waited, too.

They didn't know that they were waiting for Jesus.

They only knew they were waiting for the one God would send.

This is a prophet.

God sent prophets to the people of God to help them understand how to live while they were waiting.

And when the people of God became sad because they had no savior the prophets spoke God's words of hope.

After speaking, return the Advent basket to its shelf. Then come back and get and return the wooden prophet figure, the matches and the candle snuffer.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will be able to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

Dismiss the children ONLY after they have ALL had a chance to choose their work.

I wonder what you will make your work today? Will you make the first Advent card so you will have your own? Will you paint or draw? Or will you work with a story and make it your own?

Remember, if you choose to work with the Advent story from today, you may use all the materials except the matches. Ask one of the adults and they will help you light the prophet's candle. Let's begin.

ADVENT I, The Prophet....TEACHER HELPS

The season of Advent is a time of special celebration for children and it can be shared in a spiritual way in our classroom. No doubt Santa Claus and gifts and Christmas trees will enter into the conversation we share in the weeks of Advent, but this is an opportunity to add the dimension of waiting and preparing our hearts for the Christ child that does not come through secular celebrations. In addition, the quiet atmosphere of the Good Shepherd room offers a calm refuge to the busyness of the season elsewhere.

We will use a traditional Advent wreath elsewhere in the classroom, but for our story time will use the individual candles which can be placed in front of the underlay.

Be sure the underlay is rolled with the white to the inside. In other words, you must begin rolling with the white end so that it will be on the inside and the purple unrolls first. We do not unroll the whole underlay each week, but use only as much as is needed. The following weeks of Advent the second, third and fourth cards are added, always beginning again with the first. There is repetition then of the first story every week of Advent. While the previous stories are shortened a little for the new telling, it is still inevitable that the fourth week of Advent will be a long story.

The season of Advent lasts four weeks. Christmas is the beginning of a new season. So when we get to the Christmas lesson we are on the white piece of the underlay.

There are as many different names for the four candles of Advent as there are people who celebrate the season. In the Good Shepherd room we will use these designations:

The story, from Isaiah, comes from a time when some of the people of God had been destroyed by the Assyrians. It was a very dark time for them. What kind of king would these people be hoping for?

When you read Isaiah 9:1-7, which Old Testament king is mentioned in the description of the one who would save the people of God?

WARNING

The use of candles and matches should be closely supervised by a responsible adult. Serious injuries may result from contact with flame or hot wax.