

RE Home Learning WB 30th November 2020

Lesson 1

WALT: prepare for Jesus at Christmas

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year. The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word 'adventus' which means 'a drawing near'. The event that is drawing near is Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The four Sundays before Christmas Day are known as the four Sundays of Advent. This is a time of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus into the world.

The symbols, prayers and readings of the season help us to reflect on God's love which is made known in the wonderful gift of Jesus.



ADVENT SYMBOLS

Each Sunday one candle is lit on the **Advent Wreath** to mark the time of waiting for Christ's birthday.

The purple candles are a sign that this is a penitential season when people make an extra effort to be more faithful in prayer, and more loving by doing something practical for others, especially those in need.



**Prayer of blessing for the
Advent wreath**

*Dear God,
we thank you for giving us Jesus
to be the light in our darkness.
Bless us as we gather in his name
and bless this wreath as a sign of his light
among us.*

*We ask this blessing through
Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

*(Adapted from A Book of Blessings,
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

The pink candle is a sign that the penitential time is joyful too because the coming of Jesus brings joy to all people.

The white candle is a symbol of Jesus whose coming brings light into the darkness of wintertime.



The Advent Calendar at home atndat school is a countdown to Christmas. The Christian calendar will often have suggestions about things to do to show love and care for others.

Read the following - Paul explaining about God's gift of love and friendship in his letter to the people living in Ephesus: *God's Story* 3 page 145 Ephesians 1: 3-6 an early Christian hymn.

FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

(based on Ephesians 1:20-23)

Let me remind you how we know the power of God:

God raised Jesus to new life.

We can say his place is 'at God's right hand'.

He is the one who is to take charge
of all things and all people.

God has made him Head of the Church
and the Church is full of his life and his love.

And his name 'Jesus' is to be the best known,
loved and honoured of all names
not just for now but forever.

***God raised Jesus to
new life:***

*For the disciples and the
first Christians, this was
proof that Jesus was the
Messiah sent by God his
Father.*

AN EARLY CHRISTIAN HYMN (based on Ephesians 1:3-6)

Give thanks to God, the Father of Jesus.

Give thanks to the Father who has given us the Son.

Give thanks to God who has blessed us
with all the blessings of heaven through Jesus.

Before the world was made, God planned this best of gifts.

From the very beginning God's plan for us was this:

by giving us Jesus to make us sons and daughters, too.

We are God's children, blessed and loved like Jesus the Son.

All the wonder of God's love and life is ours through Jesus.

Give thanks to God the Father who has given us the Son.

- What does this passage tell you about God?
- What is the Christian thanking God for?
- What are the gifts mentioned here?
- Through God giving us Jesus, what does that make us?
- What does it mean to be called God's children?

Think about how we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

What signs and symbols of Advent are around?

How does the Church prepare for Christmas and how does a Christian family prepares for the coming of Jesus?

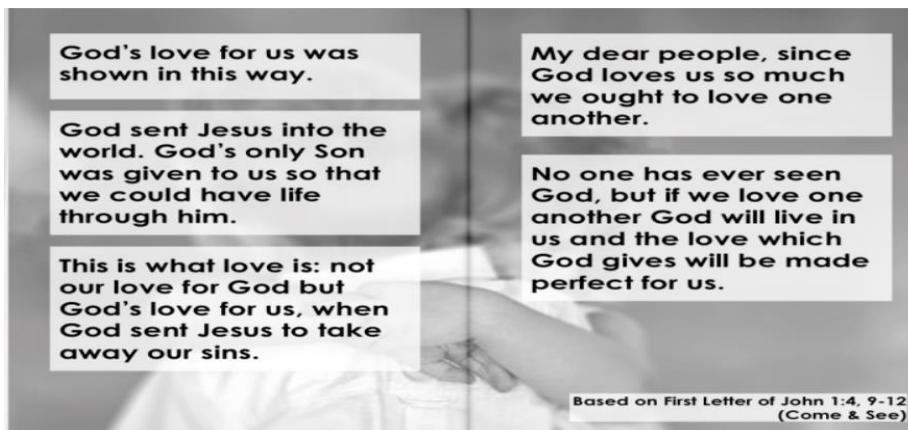
Activity

Write a poem called Jesus, God's gift to the world.

Lesson 2

WALT: say thank you to God for sending us the gift of Jesus

Read the following based on the First Letter of John 1: 4, 9-12.



- What does John say love is?
- What does he say about where the gift of love come from?
- What does he say is the best way God shows love for us?
- What does God's gift of love mean for us and how does it affect the way we live our lives?
- Why do you think Jesus came to earth?

Activity

Write a 'thank you' letter to God for sending us the gift of Jesus. Say why you are glad that Jesus lived among us. Give reasons why this helps you to be a better person.