

When We Come Back

Talk Sheet

The Arrival of Hope

Introduction:

Advent is a special time to prepare your heart to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. Many have a wreath that they place candles in and light one each week. The first candle that is lit is purple and represents hope. We have hope because of God sending Jesus into the world. It is easy for us to think we've lost hope, but God can always help us have hope.

Talk Points:

- The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "a coming or arrival."
- Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas where we prepare ourselves as we joyfully anticipate Jesus' arrival.
- On an Advent wreath there are 4 candles where on each of the four Sundays preceding Christmas, a candle is lit until, by the last Sunday of Advent, all four candles are lit and the light from the candles grows brighter each week. Some Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle which is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This represents that Jesus is the light of the world.
- The week 1 candle represents HOPE.
- The first candle is purple symbolizing royalty. Sometimes it's called the "Prophecy Candle."

Things To Ponder:

- Hanging wreaths at Christmas is based on the Advent wreath. Holly leaves represent the crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head during His crucifixion. Berries point to Christ's sacrifice and the blood He shed for our sins. Pinecones, seeds, and nuts are placed as a symbol and promise of new life.
- Hope helps us during significant trials or times of distress. It offers us security that God will arrive and though we cannot see Him now, we will see Him face to face one day.
- Immanuel means "God with us."

Apply What You Heard:

What does it mean to you that God is with us?

What does HOPE mean to you?

Reflect:

"let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."