

## Children's Worship Lesson – December 20, 2020

### ***WE PREPARE WITH LOVE***

**Purpose:** To experience how the good news of Christmas is shared  
To review the Christmas story

#### Preparation

Worship Table – purple or blue cloth

Pictures for Bible story and activity materials at the end of the lesson.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle to remember that God is always with us.**

#### Advent Wreath



This is the fourth week of Advent, the fourth week of waiting for Jesus to be born. The first candle was the candle of **HOPE**. (Invite a child to turn on the **HOPE** candle. If using the Advent wreath sheet, point to the HOPE candle.) The second candle was the candle of **PEACE**. (Invite a child to turn on the **PEACE** candle or point to it on the sheet.) Last week, we lit the candle of **JOY**. (Invite a child to turn on the **JOY** candle or point to it on the sheet.) This week's candle is the **LOVE** candle. (Invite a child to turn on/glue the flame on the **LOVE** candle.) This is the last Sunday before Christmas. There is only one candle left, the CHRIST candle, and it will be lit on Christmas Eve/Christmas day. Our time of Advent waiting is almost over.

#### Optional: Advent Calendar

Let's also update our Advent calendar. Who would like to put on today's star? (Choose a child to put a star on today's date.)

#### Opening Prayer

Thank you, God, for this special time of love.

Help us to share your love with others all around.

Amen.

#### Advent Waiting Song (tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb)

**A-Ad-vent is with us now, with us now, with us now**

**A-Ad-vent is with us now, our waiting time is here.**

**We clap our hands with happy smiles, happy smiles, happy smiles,**

**We clap our hands with happy smiles and wait for Baby Jesus.**

## Introducing the Theme - Game: Christmas Riddles

**(Hold up the Christmas card with a picture of a bell on it or show the bell ornament that you brought.)**

Do you know what this is? **(Let the children answer.)** Yes, it's a bell. But not a jingle bell, like we sometimes see at Christmas. This is a type of bell that used to be built into tall towers. (If your church has a steeple and/or a bell, add that detail.) A long time ago, before there was the internet, TV, radio, telephones, or even newspapers, they had to announce important messages in person. When someone had something special to tell, they would ring the town bell to gather everyone together, and then they would tell the important message. This bell on our Christmas card and the bells on our Christmas trees remind us that Jesus came to bring us a special message of love from God.

**Sing: "Ringing the Bells" (tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)**

1. Ring, ring, ring the bells, ring them loud and clear,  
to tell the people everywhere Jesus' birthday's here.
2. Ring, ring, ring the bells, ring them loud and long,  
it's time to sing out everywhere Jesus' birthday songs.

## Exploring the Theme

Mary first knew that she was going to have a baby when a messenger from God came and told her. The messenger was named Gabriel. The angel Gabriel told Mary, "Don't be afraid, Mary, you are going to be the mother of a very special baby, a baby that God has promised. You will name him Jesus."

## **Game: Recalling the Christmas Story**

Sit in a circle and put the set of four teaching pictures and two Christmas cards face down in the center. Let's play a game! You're going to take turns. When it's your turn, choose one of the papers from the center of the circle. Look at the picture, and then see if you can tell what that picture is showing about the Christmas story. I'll help you if you need it. **("This is Mary riding on a donkey to Bethlehem." "This is an angel. Angels sang the good news to the shepherds," etc. You may need to encourage them with a few questions.)**

After you have said something about your picture, give it to me, and the next person will choose a different picture to talk about. **(Repeat until all of the cards have been talked about.)**

## **Activity: Swaddling a Baby**

The Bible says that when Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in swaddling cloths. In those days, when a mother had a new baby, she would wrap it in a special way. First, she would wrap it in a blanket. **(Use a doll to demonstrate how to fold the blanket around the baby.)** Then she would wind long strips of cloth, called swaddling cloths, around the baby. **(Hold a**

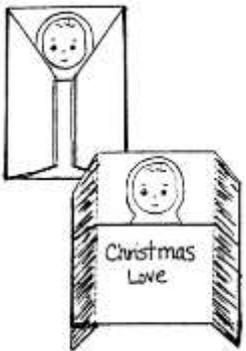
**strip and start to wrap the doll. Have a child help you finish wrapping.)** When babies are very young, they feel safe in swaddling cloths. In some places in our world today, mothers still wrap their babies this way.

**SWADDLING:** Infants were wrapped in swaddling cloths, or bands, which gave them a mummy-like appearance. A square cloth was folded over the child, then strips of material were wound around to make a tight little bundle. Swaddling continued until the child was several months old.

One of the ways that we try to spread the good news of Christmas – that Jesus came to bring us a special message of God’s love – is through special Christmas songs. Let’s sing some now. (have the children pick one of their favourite Christmas carols and sing it together)

**Memory Verse:** *“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us!”* Luke 2:15

### **Integrating the Theme – Christmas Love Card**



Make copies of the “Christmas Love Card” activity sheet. Cut out the cards and print the message “Christmas Love” on the front inside section. Bring a 5 cm x 7.5 cm/2in x 3in piece of soft cloth for each child. Bring crayons and glue sticks.

**(Hold up a sample sheet.)** You’ll get a sheet that looks like this. The first thing that you need to do is fold it. **(Demonstrate each step on the sample sheet. Fold the bottom line in and then fold the next line up to the baby’s head. Fold the sides last.)** Your Christmas card says, “Christmas Love” inside it. You

can colour and decorate your card, and then glue on some swaddling cloths for baby Jesus. And don’t forget to add your name! If you would like to add some other special words of love in your card, your parents can help you with that.

**[Dance Song – “Joy to the World” Pentatonix on YouTube](#)**

### **Closing Prayer**

Dear God,

May the spirit of Christmas fill all your hearts with love.

May you leave here with the glory of the Lord’s love inside each one of you here today.

Amen.

# Christmas Love Card

