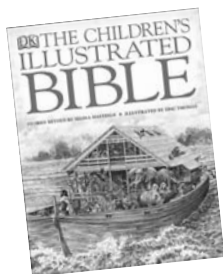


Third Sunday of Advent



The Children's Illustrated Bible

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has blessed me; God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to hold the brokenhearted, to preach freedom to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's blessings. For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will rejoice greatly in the Lord; my whole being shall rejoice in my God; for God has put on me clothes of salvation and a robe of righteousness. As the earth grows new plants, and as a garden causes what is planted in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause goodness and praise to spring up before all nations.

—Isaiah 61:1, 2, 8, 10, 11
adapted

Hope, Come Down

Many prophets told of a special savior who would come to save God's people. Isaiah was one prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus who told how Jesus would be born. The prophecies gave hope to God's people, especially those who had struggled so long in slavery and in exile without a home. Read Isaiah 7:14.

1. What did Isaiah say would happen?
2. Was Isaiah right in his description of how Jesus would come?
3. Isaiah lived 700 years before Jesus was born. How did he know about Jesus' birth?

In Isaiah 64:1-5, Isaiah wrote that he couldn't wait for God to come down from heaven. God did come down in the form of Jesus. Advent means getting ready for Jesus to come.

4. What do you do to get ready for Christmas?
5. If Jesus were coming to your house, what would you do to get your house ready?
6. Would you change anything, about yourself or what you do, to prepare for Jesus?

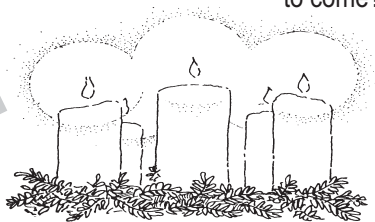
Ready, Set, Go!

Play a game to encourage kids to get ready for Jesus to come. Line kids up at a starting line, with one kid standing backward, another sitting, another on their knees, another with eyes closed. Tell them when you say, "On your mark, get set, go," they should run to the goal line. Give the signal. After the race, gather them and discuss:

1. How could you be better prepared to race? (line up in correct racing position.)

Race again, this time with everyone positioned correctly to race off the starting line. Give the signal. After the race, discuss again.

2. What made this race different?
3. What can you really do to get ready for Jesus? (Hint: What would Jesus want you to do while he's preparing to come?)



Light the candles from the last two weeks and one for today. Ask kids: Are you still getting ready for Jesus' coming? What did you do this week to get ready?

Color the Christmas tree.

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—Isaiah 61:1, 2, 8, 10, 11 adapted



Get Ready for Jesus. What Will You Do?

Circle the things you will do.

Help decorate your home for Christmas.

Practice Christmas play for school or church.

Make a Christmas gift.

Make something for your family or friends.

Save money to buy gifts.

Read more about Jesus.

Invite a friend to church.

Your idea: _____