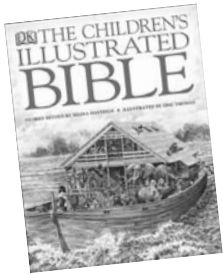


First Sunday of Advent



The Children's Illustrated Bible

Get Ready!

Read the scripture from Mark and discuss how to prepare for the birth of the Messiah. Discuss: How do you get ready when someone is going to be visiting you? We should be prepared for Jesus' birth in the same way.

In the final days, I will come again with great power and glory. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only God. So keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

—Mark 13:26, 32 adapted



God's Greatest Gift

Have kids create "God's greatest gift of love" by decorating heart-shaped papers with drawings or stickers of babies or small plastic baby dolls (plastic baby-shower decorations). At a specified time in the worship service, children may distribute the "gift."

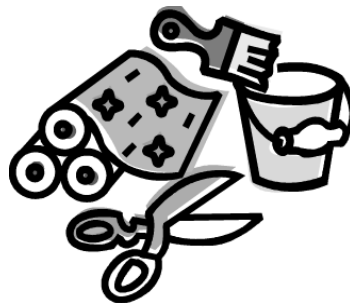
Angelic Food

Make angelic food to share the good news of Jesus' coming. Give each kid a slice of angel food cake. Have tubes of cake icing in various colors available. Invite kids to share the good news that the angels told by decorating their cake.



Create an Advent wreath for your class—four candles plus the Christ candle in the center (different color).

Light one candle today. Advent is the time we get ready for Jesus to come.



Angels to Keep

Make a pinecone angel. Cut an 8-inch paper doily into pie-shaped wedges. Using two doily wedges for wings, thread a length of curling ribbon through each wing and around a medium-size pinecone near the tip. Tie a bow and let the ends curl downward. For the head, glue a half-inch diameter wooden bead to the tip. Dab glue on the top of the head, then dip the head in large pieces of glitter. Encourage kids to be open to angel messages. They may wish to hang their angel on their Christmas tree or over their bed at home.



Color the Christmas wreath.

Parable to Keep Watch

(actors: Jesus, man, woman, doorkeeper, servants)

Jesus: The kingdom of heaven is like a man and woman who left their home to go on a journey. They put servants in charge, each with their own work, and a doorkeeper to be on watch.

Man and woman: Each of you continue to do your work while we are gone.

Servants: Yes, we'll do our jobs while you're gone.

Man and woman: (to doorkeeper) Be on watch, for you do not know when we will come home, and we want everything to be ready.

Doorkeeper: Yes, I'll keep watch on the house.

Man and woman: Do not go to sleep, for we may come in the evening or in the morning.

Servants and doorkeeper: We will stay awake and keep watch for you.

—Adapted from Mark 13:32–37

