

Church of the Redeemer

CELEBRATING ADVENT 2010-

Family Worship Guide

First Sunday of Advent: (Nov. 28) – Sermon text: Genesis 1-3/Romans 5:12-14, 17-19

Call to Worship: Psalm 8

Assurance of Pardon: Colossians 1: 15-20

Advent Theme Summary: We begin with **creation** and reflect on how God designed and ordered the universe and placed a man and a woman in His garden to rule over everything He created, and it was very good. Unfortunately, this perfect union between God and his creation did not last long, for mankind quickly fell into disobedience and brought ruin and devastation to God's wonderful design. But God did not leave the man and woman simply to die in the misery of their sin. Instead, even as He pronounced curses upon them for their failure, He promised victory over the serpent and over the forces of evil. It would come at a terrible cost.

Today we light a candle to remember the **Creation**. We remember that God designed and ordered this universe for our good and His glory, and we have hope that one day God will again restore all things. By lighting this candle we begin a season celebrating the coming of the second Adam, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Family Devotion Time:

THEME: Jesus is the Second Adam. He has come to make everything sad come untrue.

Begin by singing “Come Thou Long-expected Jesus” or a favorite Christmas song

Read Psalm 8 together. (If you have a copy of *THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE*, read pp. 28-37: “The Terrible Lie”)

Read the first three questions of the child's catechism together and talk about them.

Q#1- Who made you?

A#1- *God.*

Q#2- What else did God make? (Make a list together. Let the children use their imaginations.)

A#2- *All things.*

Q#3- Why did God make you and all things?

A#3- *For his own glory*

(Some follow-up questions:)

- Think about how big the universe is – does it make you feel small?
- What's your favorite thing God has made? Why?
- What does it mean that he God has crowned humanity with glory and honor and given us dominion (Ps. 8:5-6)? ... Do you realize you are a king/queen?
- As God's image-bearers, how are we “in charge” of putting God's glory on display on the earth?
- How have we failed in the mission God has given us?

Read Colossians 1:15-20 together.

- What does it mean that Jesus is the “image” of the invisible God?
- Talk about how Jesus has accomplished all that Adam (and ourselves) have failed to accomplish by living in perfect submission to the will of God. Contrast his prayer in Gethsemane, “Not my will but yours be done!” with Adam's (unspoken) prayer: “Not your will but mine be done!”

Begin praying through the A.C.T.S. model.

- First, *adore* God for what he has made in creation and what he has created us to be. Adore his wisdom and creativity that are displayed in creation.
- Second, *confess* how we have failed to live up to our job description as his image-bearers.

Light the first Advent Candle (as you read the Advent Theme Summary above) and talk about how Jesus is our Savior and will one day make everything that is sad come untrue.

Continue to pray through A.C.T.S.

- Give *thanks* for Jesus and all that God has promised to do through him to save us.
- *Supplication*- Ask the Holy Spirit to conform you into the image of Jesus (Rom 8:28-29).

Conclude by singing “O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Second Sunday of Advent (Dec. 7) – Sermon text:

Call to Worship: Genesis 17: 1-7

Assurance of Pardon: Luke 1: 46-55

Advent Theme Summary: Everything we hope for depends upon God's promise. On this second Sunday of Advent we remember the **promise** made to Abraham and through him, to us. Though 100 years old and his wife, Sarah, 90 years old, God gave Abraham a son and heir and led him into the Promised Land. God covenanted (promised) to be Abraham's God and to bless him and to bless the nations through him. In the ancient ritual enacted in Genesis 15, God declared that He will suffer the curses if the covenant is broken. This is the hope to which we cling.

Today we light a candle to remember the **Promise**. We believe that Jesus Christ bore the penalty for our unwillingness to keep covenant with God. By faith in Christ, we enjoy the blessing promised to Abraham, and we hope, work and pray for His grace to be poured out on all the nations.

Family Devotion Time:

THEME: Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.

Begin by singing "Manger Throne" or a favorite Christmas song

Read Genesis 17:1-7 together. Talk about who Abraham was and how God was going to use him to bring salvation to all the nations. (If you have a copy of *THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE*, read pp. 56-61: "Son of Laughter")

Ask and answer these questions:

- What is a covenant?
- What are the things God promises to do for Abraham (and for us) because of the covenant?
- What are the things Abraham (and us too!) must promise to do because of the covenant?
- How has God blessed us as a family? (Make a list of all the things you can think of.)
- How can we use these things to be a blessing to others?
- Where do we need to ask God to forgive us for being selfish, self-centered, stingy, etc.?

Begin praying through the A.C.T.S. model.

- First, *adore* God for how he has blessed you. (Turn Q#4 into prayer.)
- Second, *confess* the things you came up with above in prayer. (Turn Q#6 into prayer.)

Light the first Advent candle and remind the children that it symbolizes God's CREATION and his promise to make everything sad come untrue.

Light the second Advent Candle (as you read the Advent Theme Summary above) and talk about how Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.

Continue to pray through A.C.T.S.

- Give *thanks* for Jesus and all that God has promised to do through him to save us.
- *Supplication*- Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your family to make you faithful

Conclude by singing "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 14) – Sermon text:

Call to Worship: Deuteronomy 5: 1-6

Assurance of Pardon: John 1: 12-14, 16-17

Advent Theme Summary: On this third Sunday of Advent we remember the **law** given to Moses. Only days after the people of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, were freed from slavery in Egypt, the Lord led them to his mountain and gave them what was necessary to live well and prosper in the land to which He was taking them. He gave them His law, His word, His instruction, His heart. This law served to show them how to love God and their neighbor, but it also revealed their continual need for repentance and faith.

Today we light a candle to remember the **Law** of God. With the Psalmist we declare that “Your word is a lamp to [our] feet and a light for [our] path.” And we rejoice that God’s Word became flesh and made his dwelling with us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. By faith, we are declared righteous before the Father and are given a new heart to obey.

Family Devotion Time:

THEME: Jesus is our Righteousness.

Begin by singing “Manger Throne” or a favorite Christmas song

Read Deuteronomy 5:1-6 and John 1:12-14, 16-17 together. (If you have a copy of *THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE*, read pp. 100-107: “Ten Ways to Be Perfect”)

Ask and answer these questions:

- What is a family rule you don’t like much? ... Why do you think the rule exists?
- How does the Law “show s how to live, how to be close to God, and how to be happy”? Explain how the Law of God is not a bad thing but a good thing because it shows us how life works best. Help your children see that it is unbelief that causes us to doubt God’s goodness in giving us “laws.”
- Can we ever obey the law perfectly?
- How does this fact show us our need of a Savior? (What is the purpose of the law?)
- Explain the gospel- Jesus is our Righteousness! He came to live the life we should have lived. He came to be perfect for us.
- John says that “grace and truth” come through Jesus. What is grace?
- How does Jesus give us a new heart to obey God’s law (cf. Ezekiel 36:25-27)?

Begin praying through the A.C.T.S. model.

- First, *adore* God for graciously giving us the Law as a roadmap to abundant life.
- Second, *confess* how you hate to be told what to do. Confess how you have ignored or willingly violated God’s commands. Repent of wanting to try to find happiness apart from God.

Light the first Advent candle and remind the children that it symbolizes God’s CREATION and his promise to make everything sad come untrue.

Light the second Advent Candle which symbolizes PROMISE and talk about how Jesus is our Savior and how he forgives us where we have sinned.

Light the third candle (as you read the Advent theme summary above) which stands for LAW and talk about how Jesus is our Righteousness.

Continue to pray through A.C.T.S.

- Give *thanks* for Jesus. He has satisfied the demands of the law. He has been perfect for us. If our faith is in Him, then we have been credited with his perfect obedience.
- *Supplication*- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a new heart to obey God’s law.

Conclude by singing “O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 21) – Sermon text:

Call to Worship: Psalm 89: 1-5

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 9: 6-7

Advent Theme Summary: In the days after Israel had settled in the Promised Land, despite the blessing of the law, the people of God came under its curse by their disobedience. Nevertheless, God showed them His mercy and continued to build His **kingdom** through them. Choosing a forgotten shepherd boy named David as His king, God established a dynasty. On this fourth Sunday of Advent we remember this **kingdom** which still stands. God promised to establish David's line forever and fulfilled that promise unexpectedly. As a baby born in a stable in Bethlehem, God came to earth in Christ, the Humble King.

Today we light a candle to remember the unshakeable **Kingdom** of God. In the lighting of this candle we long for his return, when he will come to banish all pain and wickedness and to reign in peace and justice for eternity.

Family Devotion Time:

THEME: Jesus is the King who will make all things new

Begin by singing “Sing to the King” or a favorite Christmas song

Read Isaiah 9:1-7 together. (If you have a copy of *THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE*, read pp. 130-135: “The Good Shepherd”)

Ask and answer these questions:

- Why was the promise of a king good news to God's people? (Isn't having a king a bad thing?)
- What would this king do? (Explain the ideas of “righteousness” and “peace”)
- What hints are there in Isaiah 9 that this king would be different than any other king the world had ever known?
- Think about Jesus' birth, his life, and even his death... how is Jesus a different kind of king? Why is this good news for us?

Read Q#72 & Q#75 of the child's catechism together and talk about them.

Q#72- How is Christ your king?

A#72- *Christ rules over me, the world and Satan, and he defends me.*

Q#75- Why do you need Christ as your king?

A#75- *Because I am weak and helpless.*

(Follow-up questions:)

- What does it mean for us to live under Jesus' authority as our king?

Begin praying through the A.C.T.S. model.

- First, *adore* God as King.
- Second, *confess* your desire to rule yourself and not be ruled.

Light the first Advent candle and remind the children that it symbolizes God's CREATION and his promise to make everything sad come untrue.

Light the second Advent Candle which symbolizes PROMISE and talk about how Jesus is our Savior and how he forgives us where we have sinned.

Light the third candle which stands for LAW and talk about how Jesus is our Righteousness.

Light the fourth candle (as you read the Advent Theme Summary above) which stands for KINGDOM and talk about how Jesus is our King.

Continue to pray through A.C.T.S.

- Give *thanks* for Jesus. He is a different kind of King and worthy of our love and obedience.
- *Supplication*- Ask the Holy Spirit to produce devotion and obedience in you.

Conclude by singing “O Come Let Us Adore Him”/”Manger Throne”

