

# Prophecy/Advent

## Presentation and Homework



NOTE: We can learn about prophecy and the Season of Advent through the use of the Advent Wreath. Please know there are various views held for each candles' specific meaning. There is simply no 'one way' to describe each candle, so we recognize church liberty and freedom in assigning meanings; however, some views are more common than others.

Prophecy is different than prediction. While *prophecy* is when a prophet actually states the word of God and future things that will indeed happen, *prediction* is when a person states what may or may not happen (full of chance). Good to know the difference. :-)

**December Plan:** We'll cover the first two candles in Week One and the remaining three candles in Week Two. Week three we' review

**Advent Wreath Candle One:** The Prophecy Candle (Hope/Watch) *Blue or Purple*

*"The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14*

Using the Note sheets or space below, take notes on midweek presentation.

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**Read Matthew 1:18-25**

1. What do you find interesting in this text?
2. What does this text say about Jesus' purpose in life?
3. What does Emmanuel/Immanuel mean?

**HOMEWORK**

Watch [video HOPE](#) (The Bible Project). You may need to watch it a few times to get a handle on it. (it's only 5 minutes long or so)

Write down three interesting things you learned from the video.

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Write down one question you have about Hope that you want your classmates to answer.

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What is your favorite Advent/Christmas song? Why?

What do you Hope for this Christmas?

How can your focus on God's Word of HOPE help you this season of Advent?

**Advent Wreath Candle Two: Bethlehem Candle (Peace/Prepare) *Blue or Purple***

**PRESENTATION**

Micah was also a prophet of God who testified to the fact that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, the City of David:

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2*

1. In what country is Bethlehem located?
2. How does Jesus' rule bring peace?
3. What does it mean that His origins are from old, ancient times?
4. Note some other key passages in Micah. What are they telling you?
  - a. Micah 6:8
  - b. Micah 7:18-20

Jot down other notes here.

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**HOMEWORK**

Watch [video PEACE](#) (The Bible Project). You may need to watch it a few times to get a handle on it. (it's only 5 minutes long or so)

Write down three interesting things you learned from the video.

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Write down one question you have about PEACE that you want your classmates to answer.

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***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God, the King,  
And peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sins and enter in,  
Be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

**Advent Wreath Candle Three: The Shepherds' Candle (Joy) Light Blue or Pink**

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:9-12*

**PRESENTATION**

1. What brings you joy in life?

**Read Isaiah 60:1-3 & Luke 2:8-14**

2. How do these two Scriptural references relate to each other?
3. How did the shepherds feel at first?
4. When was the last time you were terrified? Would seeing an angel terrify you?
5. After the angels spoke, what did the shepherd do?
6. After they saw baby Jesus, what did they do?
7. How are you called to do the same thing the shepherds did?
8. Describe ways this is happening in your life right now.

**HOMEWORK**

Watch [video JOY](#) (The Bible Project). You may need to watch it a few times to get a handle on it. (it's only 5 minutes long or so)

Write down three interesting things you learned from the video.

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Write down one question you have about JOY that you want your classmates to answer.

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**Advent Wreath Candle Four:** The Angels' Candle (Love/Behold) *Blue or Purple*

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14*

## **PRESENTATION**

**Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and compare to Luke 2:8-14**

1. Why do you think the angels first said to the shepherds, "Fear not!"
2. What message of love do the angels speak of?
3. Can there be true love and peace in the world without Jesus? Explain.
4. How do you need peace and love in your life?
5. With whom could you share love and peace with?
6. Which is your favorite Christmas hymn with angels in the title?
  - a. Angels From the Realm of Glory
  - b. Angels We Have Heard on High
  - c. From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
  - d. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
  - e. Other?

## **HOMEWORK**

Watch [video LOVE](#) (The Bible Project). You may need to watch it a few times to get a handle on it. (it's only 5 minutes long or so)

Write down three interesting things you learned from the video.

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Write down one question you have about LOVE you want your classmates to answer.

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### **Advent Wreath Center Candle: The Christ Candle (Light) *White***

*"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."  
John 8:12*

We light candles to represent Jesus being the Light of the World. It's said that Martin Luther was the first to put candles, yes, actual candles, on the Christmas trees in Germany back in the 1500's. Whether that is true or not, is not for certain. No matter, we do know that lights can represent and remind us of God's Son, the Light of the World, who has come to pierce our darkness and give us life!

How can seeing a candle or Christmas lights in general deepen your understanding of Christmas decorations?

1. What is your favorite kind of lights that hang on homes? Colored? White? Blinking? Other?

**Read John 9:5 and compare this to Matthew 5:14-16**

2. If Jesus is the *light of the world*, why would he say that *we* are the light of the world???
3. How does this make you feel?
4. How are you to act as a “light of the world”?
5. Describe a time (at school or in your home) when you were a “light of the world.”

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!  
The Light has Come!!  
Jesus is the Reason for the Season!***