



Series title: Advent

Session title: Candle 1 & 2

From the Latin 'adventus' meaning 'coming' representing the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and also preparation for the second coming of Jesus. The promise for us is Jesus Christ; He has come, and He will come again. This is the essence of Advent.

Make an Advent Wreath with explanations and readings:

Get an oasis ring in a tray and soak it in water.

Make a circle of evergreen foliage and cover the oasis: The circle represents God's unending love for us. The evergreen foliage represents God's gift of everlasting life.

Holly and berries can be added: These represent Jesus dying for us nailed to a cross; His blood covering our wrongs.

Add a few pinecones: representing new life through Jesus' resurrection.

Nestle and wire 4 candles/nightlights in the oasis greenery or stand them in the centre of the tray. Label /sticker them hope, preparation, joy, and love.

Light the candles leading up to Christmas and maybe use the reading for each week and pray.

This week we will do the first 2 candles:

Light Candle One: Hope:

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7: Those who walked in darkness have seen a radiant light shining upon them. They once lived in the shadows of death, but now a glorious light has dawned!... A child has been born for us; a son has been given to us. The responsibility of complete dominion will rest on his shoulders, and His name will be: The Wonderful One! The Extraordinary Strategist! The Mighty God! The Father of Eternity! The Prince of Peace! Great and vast is his dominion. He will bring immeasurable peace and prosperity.

He will rule on David's throne and over David's kingdom to establish and uphold it by promoting justice and righteousness from this time forward and forevermore. The marvellous passion that the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies, has for His people will ensure that it is finished!

Open Prayers: Thank Jesus for being the hope and light of the world, giving us an eternal hope and future. Pray for those we know who are in darkness or hopelessness and who need to know Jesus' hope and light.

Light Candle Two: Preparation:

Isaiah 40: 3-5: A thunderous voice cries out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for Yahweh's arrival!

Make a highway straight through the desert for our God! Every valley will be raised up, every mountain brought low. The rugged terrain will become level ground and the rough places a plain. Then Yahweh's radiant glory will be unveiled, and all humanity will experience it together. Believe it, for Yahweh has spoken His decree!

Open prayers: Ask God to help prepare our hearts to recover our first love of Jesus and to respond to His call on our lives to live for Him and His mission every day.