

1st Sunday in Advent

Nov. 27, 2023-
Dec. 3, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:1-10

THEME: He is Coming to Save Us

SONG: CW21 301 /CW93 2 - Savior of the Nations, Come

VISUAL: calendar with December 25 circled

OBJECT LESSON

Are you good at waiting? December just started and many of you are probably waiting for a certain day at the end of December. (Show calendar of December. Have December 25 circled with a bright color.) What day is everyone waiting for? Christmas of course! We know something special- someone special is coming. We hopefully wait patiently for Christmas understanding how important it is.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is coming to save us. That truth doesn't just remind us of Christmas when we see a tiny baby laid in a manger. Our lesson today focuses on Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. (Read/display Mark 11: 1-10.) From the beginning, Jesus humbly came into the world as a helpless baby, lived a perfect life, and rode into Jerusalem on a donkey knowing that he would willingly die on the cross to save the sinful world.

The men, women, and children that lined the way to Jerusalem waited for Jesus to come because they knew how important their King was. They waited to catch a glimpse of their Savior, to wave their palm branches, and to shout "Hosanna." Their faith in Jesus was evident that day as they waited to praise their Savior.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

He is coming to save us. Christmas will arrive in a few short weeks filled with family, presents, and holiday traditions. Don't lose focus on Jesus as he is the one God promised and the one who saves us from our sins. No amount of presents can fill that need. We need that baby in the manger that lived that perfect life that we could never live. We need that Savior that rode into Jerusalem on a donkey who died for sins so that we will gain eternal life forever in heaven.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, give us patience. Forgive us for the times when we rush through life and through your Word forgetting that our focus should always be on you. As Christmas draws closer, draw us closer to you so that our eyes remain fixed on your word and its promises. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

2st Sunday in Advent

Dec. 4, 2023 -
Dec. 10, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:1-8

THEME: Prepare to Meet Him

SONG: CW21 316/CW93 16 - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

VISUAL: birthday party invitation

OBJECT LESSON

Do you remember your best birthday party ever? (Display party invitation.) What was so special about it? Let's think of things you need to do or buy to get ready for an awesome birthday party (take student answers). Imagine a party with no cake, no decorations, and no presents. All of your friends would just sing "Happy Birthday" to you and then leave. What kind of party would that be? When you prepare for a party, you think of all the necessary things to get ready. You are prepared to have a great time!

BIBLE TRUTH

Today, our lesson focuses on one man whose job was to prepare the way for Jesus to come. That man was John the Baptist. (Read Mark 1:1-8). John was sent to prepare people for the coming of Jesus. God knew the sinful world would need someone to prepare them for the coming of the Savior and that man was John. John's message was a call for the people to repent, be baptized and turn from their sinful ways.

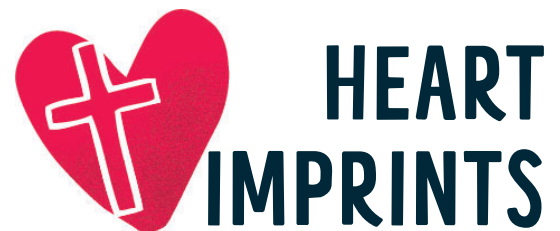
People often remember the description of John as he "wore clothing made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey." John would have been someone people were fascinated with, someone who people paid attention to. Yet, John's calling was one of a servant, to serve God by readying the people for the coming of Jesus.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

We are called to prepare also. We spend the season of Advent preparing ourselves by confessing our sins and looking to the One whose sandals John was not worthy to untie. We spend time hearing and studying his Word which points us to trust in the promised Savior who came to win forgiveness for us.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we eagerly await your birth. Prepare our hearts and souls just as John prepared the people. Keep our focus on you as the days draw near to your birth. In your name we pray, Amen.



3rd Sunday in Advent

Dec. 11, 2023–
Dec. 17, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 1:6–8, 19–28

THEME: He is Bringing Perfect Joy

SONG: CW21 313/CW93 16 – Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

VISUAL: A happy face/ happy face sticker

OBJECT LESSON

Has anyone ever said to you, “Be happy!” (Show happy face image.) What are some things that make you happy? Your birthday, Christmas, no school? (Take student answers.) We are often happy when good things are happening to us. The problem is that you aren’t always happy as emotions change based on what’s happening in your life. In the course of a day, you probably experience a range of emotions from happy, angry, surprised, annoyed, or exhausted.

BIBLE TRUTH

Thankfully, Jesus is bringing us all perfect joy. Our lesson focuses on John the Baptist reminding the people that he is not the Messiah. (Read John 1:6-8, 19-28.) The people of John’s time were a bit confused and started to think that John himself might be the Messiah. John clearly tells them that he is “not the light” but a “witness to the light.” That light is Jesus, who would bring the people perfect joy. Joy is different from happiness. Happiness comes and goes, but being joyful can last.

John denied being the Messiah. John knew he was the forerunner to Christ, to prepare the people for the coming of their Savior. John reminds the people that Jesus is “one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” The King would come and bring perfect joy for the world through his life and death.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

That joy Jesus brings is perfect. It’s not like happiness that comes or goes with a good or bad day. That joy of eternal life in heaven endures throughout our time of grace here on earth. That joy sustains us through bad days, unhappiness, and troubles as we cling to Jesus when life gets difficult. Happiness comes and goes. Joy through Christ lasts forever.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us perfect joy. Forgive the times when we sin and become distracted from you. Help us turn to you during times of trouble and remind us of the perfect joy that you bring. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

4th Sunday in Advent

Dec. 18, 2023 -
Dec. 24, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38

THEME: Just as God Promised

SONG: CW21 327/CW93 23 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VISUAL: A Checklist

OBJECT LESSON

I made a checklist of things I have to do this week. (Show students a list of 5 or 6 items.) I promised myself that I would get all these things done. What's the point of making a checklist? If I make a promise to get these things done, I need to keep that promise. Otherwise, my promise is broken and my checklist isn't complete.

BIBLE TRUTH

We know that God keeps his promises. God's checklist of things to do before Jesus would be born was complete. Things were happening just as God promised they would. (Read Luke 1:26-38). The angel Gabriel came to visit Mary and tell her the good news that she would give birth to the Savior of the world.

After Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, God gave the promise of a Savior to the world. God keeps his promises to his people and many years later, we hear the promises come true when Gabriel visits Mary and tells her the news. Mary did not argue with God, second guess God, or deny what was happening. She understood how wonderful a blessing this was and how almighty God is!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

God fulfilled his promises, even when those promises don't make any sense and seemed impossible. That was the case with Mary. It doesn't make sense that God could become man. But that is the Savior we need and the promise that God kept by doing the impossible for Mary and for us.

PRAYER

Dear God, we thank you for keeping your promise of sending a Savior to save the sinful world. Keep us focused on you this Christmas so that our hearts may know the peace and joy that Jesus brings to our sinful world. Strengthen our faith this day and always. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

1st Sunday after Christmas

Dec. 25, 2023 -
Dec. 31, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-40

THEME: Peace on Earth

SONG: CW21 355/CW93 41 - Let all Together Praise
Our God

VISUAL: Eyeglasses

OBJECT LESSON

How many of you wear glasses (or contacts)? What's your day like if you don't have your glasses or contacts? (Show a photo of glasses if needed.) Things might be blurry, it's hard to read, difficult to walk, and impossible to drive a car if you are an adult. Glasses/Contacts let people see the things around them clearly, they don't have to squint or guess at what is around them.

BIBLE TRUTH

Today, we hear about a man named Simeon. This man has the experience of a lifetime when he sees Jesus in the temple. (Read Luke 2:22-40.) Simeon was blessed to be in the temple the day that Jesus was being presented. He clearly saw how important that baby was, how that baby would grow up to save the world from their sins. Jesus was peace on earth for all mankind. Simeon knew it and gladly rejoiced when he held the baby. Simeon knew and felt that peace.

Another woman named Anna was also there that day in the temple. She also saw Jesus in the temple and rejoiced with those there that the peace of the earth had finally come. There was no questioning, no wondering, Jesus was the peace on earth both Simeon and Anna were expecting.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus is the peace that we need also. We don't need glasses or contacts to clearly see that our Savior is the peace that the sinful world needs because he was born to remove our guilt and sins which stood between us and God. Simeon's song of praise is the same song that we sing today. Jesus is our peace on earth and we can use our lives to sing our praises to him and spread the Word to everyone.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for being our peace on earth. Throughout this Advent and Christmas season, we focus on the love you have shown your people. Let us praise you all the days of our lives and when our time of grace is ended, draw us to you so that we will praise you forever in heaven. In your name we pray, Amen.

