



Hope – The Coming King

To the teacher: Start by taking a couple sips from a nice glass of milk, saying you are thirsty ...

We are coming close to the season of Advent. Advent means “the coming”. We are waiting for the coming of Christmas Day when we can celebrate the birth of the Messiah, Jesus. Advent

starts four Sundays before Christmas Eve, and it’s a season of anticipation and hope. What does “anticipation” mean? When we are expecting something to come at any minute, like the big boom sound of thunder—you know it’s going to come ... and ... then ... bang! Or when mommy is expecting a baby—when the time is ready, the baby can come any day!

Advent is not just four weeks of waiting to celebrate Jesus’ birth, but His life, His death, and His future return in power! We are reminded of Jesus’ coming; how He is with us through His Spirit, and that He will come again.

The Jewish prophets in the Old Testament, (a long time before Jesus was born) were proclaiming over and over again of a coming King, a Messiah who would give people justice and mercy. Life was hard for the Israelites, and they hoped for peace and security. These prophets were telling the people to get their lives ready and to stop sinning.



Scripture Reading

When we **read** Isaiah 7:14—it talks of the hope for a supernatural birth. How God would send His Son as a baby to live among us (that is what Immanuel means). When we **read** Isaiah 9:6-7, we see how this miracle child would save us and take on the heaviness of law and power forever. This all starts from a tiny baby! I’m sure the Israelites wanted a strong super-hero man to come and do this, but their anticipation had to start with someone small.

Do you sometimes try to grab something in a tight spot and just can’t get to it? Or try to move a heavy piece of furniture in order to get a lost toy? Or maybe you’ve walked a long way, and you just can’t keep going? Who comes to help you—your mom or dad! They help you lift or grab something that you can’t reach. They carry you or help you along when you can’t keep going.

That is exactly what the Israelites were waiting for—someone bigger than them to help—only this person came as a baby! They were hoping for something, but it came in a different way from what they were expecting!

God is with us—and He knows best!

When Jesus came as a man, the Israelites were hoping to be freed from the Romans. They expected a mighty deliverer—someone who would become their King. Instead, He entered Jerusalem meek on a donkey.

(For the teacher: Pull out your glass of “milk” that you were really hoping to drink and enjoy but secretly switch it for curdled milk that takes you by surprise. Make a big deal of the change—you were hoping for refreshing milk and instead it changed its form.)



Application

What are some things that we enjoy and may long or hope for that at first may not look too tasty in its uncooked raw form—cookies or a nice cupcake? When we bake, we throw in all the ingredients together, that if we ate raw, would taste disgusting. Would anyone want to try a taste of flour? (just a suggestion). But when we wait patiently for those ingredients to bake in the oven, something comes out amazing and delicious!

- Show them a bowl of ingredients (egg, sugar, flour, etc), and pour in the curdled milk. LOOKS YUCKY!

Just like when we wait and hope for what the Lord has for us, (pull out a finished, baked cake or cookies, one that uses curdled milk)—it is so much better.

Share the treat with the kids. Who was hoping for a treat today?

Let's remember during this Christmas season to not just look at the presents and the decorations but at what is bigger—Jesus' coming! People were hoping for a Messiah, and He did in fact come as the Jewish prophets foretold, but He came in a different way than they expected. God knows best!

Art

- Find some pictures in magazines of people/kids that look like they are waiting, anticipating, or hoping for something ... or let the kids draw their own pictures of this. Then guess or imagine what they might be hoping for.



Peace – Price of Peace

What does peace feel like? (Sitting at a lake or beach and feeling the wind, holding a sleeping baby, having a hug from a parent, making people laugh, ...)

What does it feel like when things are not peaceful? (Fighting with your family, knowing you stole or told a lie, watching someone get hurt, worrying about a test or sports, ...)



Can you imagine living in a world that is full of peace! It would be amazing! Everyone would be happy and get along, the weather would be perfect, we would do well in school, sports, and clubs, etc. I wish this was all true. Our lives are sometimes a little crazy and not peaceful—we are too busy, we fight, or we are not nice. Around the world, there are wars, famine, fires, etc. And as we look at some of our friends and their families, we will see many of them are having a hard time. Jesus came as the One who brings peace! Without Him life is crazy and chaotic; in Him we have His peace—His shalom.

Scripture

Read: Isaiah 9:5-7

We see how the Jewish Prophets in the Old Testament (a long time before Jesus) were speaking of the Prince of Peace—one who would carry all our worries and burdens. Many years before Jesus came to earth, the prophet Isaiah knew that life could be better—if we put our trust and understanding in the coming peace. The coming Prince of Peace (in Hebrew “Sar Shalom”), Jesus, would carry our burdens. When we feel stressed or scared, we can pray to Jesus to take away our worries, to give us peace! And He will. We can trust and rely on Him to do that. It might not happen immediately, but He wants us to trust Him to give us peace.

When Jesus came, we saw how He helped the poor and needy (Matthew 25:35-40), healed the sick, and spoke to the lonely and sad (Matthew 12:15, 14:14, 15:30). We can bring peace to others too, because He gave us His peace! We can model (be an example) how Jesus helped others. We can encourage people who are sad or lonely, and we can pray for those who are sick.

How can we do this? For example, we can help in a food/clothing distribution center, send a letter or draw a picture for someone who is sad or lonely, or make cookies for someone who is sick. There are many ways. Perhaps you can ask your mom or dad to help you to do some of these things.

Let's remember when things seem out of control—Jesus is our Prince of Peace!

Art

Let's make some art that looks crazy, messy and out of control and show some peace in it ...

For the teacher: You may need to pre-tear up pictures in magazines and colored paper into pieces to save time and divide the pieces into colors (if there is a dominant color on the piece of paper).



Have the kids plan to take pieces of paper and glue it wherever they want on the paper. Have them fill the whole paper. Tell them the world can look crazy and messy sometimes, no order. But Jesus was born to bring peace to our world. This peace He brought brings us Joy (our next lesson!). We will make something beautiful out of all our ripped pieces.

Now over the message collage, with the pieces, glue the word 'peace' with bright pieces of paper.

On the back of the paper, write a letter to an elderly person or someone sick in the hospital. Tell them you are praying for them, hoping they will have peace during this time, and that Jesus loves them. The letters will be given ...



Joy – The Shepherds Heard the Singing!

Scripture

Read: Luke 2:8-20

Imagine being the shepherds in the fields keeping watch over their flocks. It was winter and cold outside, no shelter and barely enough fire and clothes to keep them warm. It was a

long night, and they wanted to lie in a warm bed to sleep. It was probably boring too. Suddenly the whole sky lit up, an angel came and spoke to them. An ANGEL! Then multitudes (how many is a “multitude”?) of angels started to SING! What did that singing sound like—“heavenly”! It was the most beautiful and perfect music they had ever heard. These were simple shepherds who were not used to Broadway plays, musicals, shows, fireworks, school productions, recitals, etc. They lived outside with their sheep. Their lives were pretty boring, but they got to see the most amazingly beautiful show the world has ever witnessed. What a gift. I am sure their mouths were left open, shivers on their arms, tears in their eyes—what joy must have filled their hearts. They got a special message from the direct messenger of the Lord and a personal choir from the Lord’s musicians. Let’s listen to some beautiful music and imagine the angels praising God, the shepherds listening, and the world changing with this joyous announcement of the Messiah (Play excerpts from Handel’s Messiah, choir’s renditions of carols, or Hallelujah choruses.)



The shepherds didn’t just sit back—they responded to the message the angel brought, and they believed that a Messiah had been born. They went to praise and pay respect to the Messiah in Bethlehem and left praising God and spread the word among their friends and family.

Application

What do we do when we have good news about something exciting? When we find out something amazing—we want to tell the people close to us like family and friends. How can we keep it to ourselves? The shepherds immediately went and told people. What did they tell—that the Messiah had been born!

Now, we have a joyous, exciting message to tell people—the Messiah has come!, and through belief in Him, we can be with Him forever. With this message, we read how the Jewish prophet,

Isaiah, wrote in Isaiah 61:1-2 of a coming Messiah who would bring joy to people by: 1) preaching good news to the poor, 2) helping the broken hearted, 3) bringing release those who are troubled by their worries and stress, and 4) bringing light and hope to those who struggle. Who did this? Jesus! Isaiah knew many, many years before Jesus came to earth of this joyous truth that everyone can have. Why do we keep it to ourselves—we need to shout it out!

After Jesus came, the people who believed, told each other, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13).

You can **memorize** this verse.

Art

Let’s make instruments.

- Trumpets - Roll up (tape/staple) golden paper and decorate with sparkles, glitter, and stickers to make a trumpet so we can joyously and loudly proclaim this message!
- Tambourine - Two paper plates, decorated, stapled together with beans in the middle.

Let’s learn a **song** in Hebrew (in any tune you want . . .)

Kadosh, Kadosh, Kadosh (ka-dosh) – Holy, Holy, Holy
L’Adonai (lay –ah- dough –nye) – to the Lord

(Try to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”—begin by repeating Kadosh line three times and end with L’Adonai line.)





Love – God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that he gave his Son that who believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life. How can we understand how much God loves us, so that love can transform us to love others? Jesus loved those who were hurting Him, making fun of Him, and wanting to kill Him. It's hard for us to love those who are mean to us, talk about us, and make a funny face at us. How did Jesus do it?! He loved us so much and wanted us to be reconnected with God despite our sin, that He would do anything for us! Do you love someone this much? How?



God's love for us is amazing and freely given, yet we totally don't deserve it. We cannot even begin to understand how wide, how deep, and how great the love of Jesus our Messiah is; however, those of us who have experienced a glimpse of this love are forever changed. In the next few days, challenge yourself to love someone radically. This may require going far outside your comfort zone—the love Jesus wants us to have towards others is not always easy or comfortable to show. Think of someone in your life who is difficult to love. Now can you show them love like Jesus shows to us?

The Jewish prophet Isaiah wrote about the coming Messiah (**read Isaiah 53:4-8**): How He would be hurt, how He would suffer, and how He would take on our sins. He wrote this many years before Jesus' coming, and it clearly shows Jesus died for us because He loves us. Many people today still can't believe how clearly this was written so many years before Jesus was even born.

But why are we talking about Jesus death at Christmas time? We are supposed to be rejoicing and talking about happy things. Yet, without His birth, we would never have His amazing victory over death and suffering. We mentioned in the first lesson how we anticipate/**hope** for His coming, we know He brought **peace** to our lives and the world, we are full of **joy** and want to shout out this message of **love** and peace and now, we know that it was through His Love that He died for us.

Scripture

Read: 1 John 3:16-18

Memorize: 1 John 3:16

Art

- Paint, paper, markers

On a piece of paper (all of this is vertically on top of each other, like this <http://pinterest.com/pin/143622675586193061/>)

WRITE: "For God"

PAINT: a heart

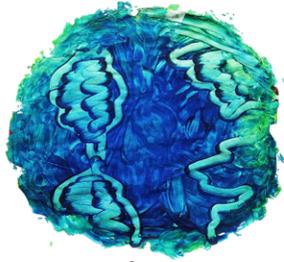
PAINT: "the world"

WRITE: "that He gave His Son."

WRITE: "We must tell others"

PAINT: a mouth, hands, feet

For God



that He
gave His Son.
We must
tell others.

