

Sunday School Home Activities - Week of December 5, 2021



Weekly home activities, great for the whole family, are designed to guide children from Nursery thru 5th grade and their families in Bible stories, engaging experiences, spiritual practices, and opportunities for reflection. Pick one to two activities to do with your family each week.

Contact Kathy Schmucker, Spiritual Formation Director, for more information. kschmucker@faithumchurch.org

Welcome to Wonder

Wonder Table - Prepare Ahead: As a family, create a Wonder Table. Find a small table or area in your home. On the table place a candle, a plant or flower, and any other special items you want to include. Use this space while gathering as a family to engage in the lesson or online worship together.

Wonder Box - The Wonder Box is a special place to hold a special item that connects to the Faith Word and to the Bible story. Place items or symbols related to each week's Bible story in the Wonder Box. You may want to keep your Wonder Box on your family's Wonder Table. You can make your own Wonder Box to be any shape or size, but it's best if it has a lid. Include your whole family in the creation process.

Wonder with Me - READ the Bible Story - Read the Bible story, Luke 1:26-38.

- Read from the Bible or the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook or attached handout. The story is also in the Advent Family Worship Kits.

WATCH the Bible Story and Sing with the Celebrate Wonder Music Videos

Watch this week's Celebrate Wonder Video on Amplify Media:

Amplify Media is a new resource for our congregation! This will make it easy for you and your families to access 1000's of videos for adults, youth and children. To receive the log in info and our congregation's access code, email kschmucker@faithumchurch.org or text Kathy at 330-224-6138. Once you have logged into Amplify Media search Celebrate Wonder to watch this week's Celebrate Wonder Video and view the Celebrate Wonder Music Videos! Amplify Media has also recently added a section called, Cokesbury Kids, to make it easier for you to find all the great resources available for children!

This week's video is Celebrate Wonder Winter 2021/2022 Session 1 Mary's Good News.

SAY: This month we are talking about stories at the beginning of Jesus' life. Our story today is about Mary learning that she will be Jesus' mother. This is the Second Week of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We are waiting for Christmas and the day Jesus was born.

WONDER: What do you think will happen to Mary next?

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for choosing Mary to be Jesus' mother. Amen

Christmas Thoughts

Supplies: Reproducible 1D & 1E, hole punch, ribbon, scissors, a large jar

Prepare Ahead: Print out pages 1D & 1E. Cut all the cards apart and use a hole punch to make a hole where you see indicated on each card. Thread a piece of ribbon through each hole and place the twelve cards in a large jar.

- Place the jar next to your Christmas tree or dinner table.
- Invite one person to pull a card from the jar, and have them read it aloud. Help those who can't read yet.
- Have them hang the card on the tree or elsewhere. Invite each person to respond to the prompt on the card.
- There are twelve cards. Plan to pull four cards from the jar this week. Then pull four more cards next week (December 12) and four cards the following week (December 19).



Examine the Bible Verse

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 2:11. Find it in your Bibles.

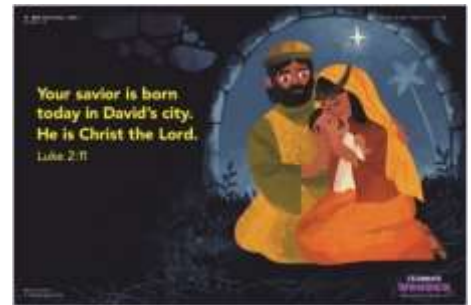
ASK: Is the Book of Luke in the Old or New Testament? (New)

Where is Luke located in the New Testament? (third book)

In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (2)

What is the verse number? (11)

SAY: Our Bible verse tells us about the good news of Jesus' birth.



SHARE the Faith Word: ADVENT

This month's faith word is Advent. Advent is a time we wait and prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent can be full of excitement, like baking cookies, or it can be a time of quiet reflection as we watch the flames on Advent wreath candles.

SAY: Sometimes we aren't physically present with someone, but we can still share with them the awe and wonder of waiting for the birth of Jesus.

WONDER together: ○ How can you share the awe and wonder of Advent with someone you love who lives far away?

○ What does it feel like to wait for something you really want?

○ What can we do to help us wait patiently?

WONDER: How do you think the Advent wreath helps us wait for Christmas?

Clothespin Angel Ornament

Supplies: wooden clip-type clothespins, coffee filters, gold or silver chenille stems, string, markers, glue or tape, scissors



Directions: Cut the chenille stems into fourths. Make a circle out of each chenille stem, leaving enough on one end to place inside the clip of the clothespin. Cut pieces of string about six inches long. Tie the ends of each piece of string together to form a hanging loop.

- Give each person a clothespin and a coffee filter. Show them how to scrunch the coffee filter in the middle and place inside the clip part of the clothespin.

- Have everyone clip the end of the chenille stem into the top clip of the clothespin. Have the children draw a face on the front of the clothespin.

- Place the string loop inside the clothespin clip and tape or glue the clip together.

SAY: One of the ways we can prepare for Christmas is to make ornaments. Today we are going to make an angel ornament to help us remember that the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she would have a special baby.

WONDER: If God sent an angel to you today, what do you think God's message to you would be?

Additional Activities Attached for this Week:

- Mary's Good News Coloring Page Advent Wreath Christmas Thoughts Activity Waiting in Hope Wreath
- Check out the Family Advent Kit for Advent Calendars, Candles, and other activities for the season of Advent.

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Advent Through Presence

- Gather together.

Supplies: Advent Wreath – cut out the one attached or use one from the Family Advent Kit which also includes suggestions for making your own wreath.

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do to help us be present with God. Advent is a time we can be present with God as we wait and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

- Gather around the Advent wreath and light the first and second candles on the wreath. As you light the candles, have the everyone sing, "Getting Ready for Christmas," to the tune of "This Is the Way."

SING: This is the way we light our candles, light our candles, light our candles. This is the way we light our candles, getting ready for Christmas!

SAY: The 2nd candle on the Advent wreath reminds us of the love Jesus brings. Look at the circle of the Advent wreath. The circle is a symbol to remind us that Jesus' love and peace are eternal and never stop. Think of someone you love.

PRAY: Repeat after me: "God, thank you for (have everyone share the name of someone they love). Amen."

- Bless everyone. Touch each person as you say this blessing: "May you be blessed in the waiting." "May you be filled with the love of Jesus during this season of Advent."

FAMILY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE - BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 1:26-38

Wonder: After reading the Bible story from the Bible or from the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, wonder together.

Ask: What brings you joy?

Do: This is the second week of Advent. Light two candles and pray together.

Pray: Dear God, we wait in wonder for the coming of Christ. Amen.

Celebration Chart: Place the chart on your refrigerator, kitchen table, or in an easy-to-access place. Throughout the week, have your child mark a space each time he or she completes an item on the chart. When a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal line is completed, celebrate together! *A Celebration Chart for Winter is included in this week's Sunday School Home Activities and in the Advent Family Kits.*

Adapted from Celebrate Wonder Winter 2021 Session 1 © 2021 Cokesbury

Additional Family Activities:

- **Advent:** The First Sunday of Advent, November 28, marks the beginning of the Christian year. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Check out Faith United's Family Advent Kit and choose a few activities to do as a family to guide you through the season of Advent and Christmas.
 - **Learn more about the Advent Wreath** in Faith United's Spiritual Practice 101 video series. [Click here](#) to view the Advent Wreath video.
 - Check out the Cokesbury Kids **Family Advent Guide** for activities, Advent Wreath Lighting, coloring pages, and links to Advent videos for kids. This is also available in the Family Advent Kits - <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/church-at-home/2021-advent-guide>
 - **Advent Photo-A-Day** - We invite you to join us in our Advent Photo-A-Day Challenge. You will find a word on the Advent Photo-A-Day image that connects with our Advent theme, Close to Home. Take or find a picture or song or a poem that expresses this idea. You might also want to create your own image with paint, crayons, clay or other art and nature materials. We invite you to share on social media and tag the Faith United: @faithnorthcanton. Let us be on the lookout for our God who is coming near to us in this holy season.
 - **Close to Home Advent Worship Series Activities:**
 - Read what Paul wrote to his friends in the city of Philippi while he was in prison – Philippians 1:3-11.
 - Build a story together, one sentence at a time. One person starts the story with one sentence, then the next person continues the story with another sentence. Keep going until the story is finished.
 - Interview a family member about the past, perhaps when they were a child. What has changed?
 - Draw a picture or write a story about who you imagine being when you grow up.
 - Learn more about how architects design homes with blueprints. Find out what organizations help build homes for people in need in your community and learn more about how you can help.
 - Wonder about what good work God is doing in you.
 - **Close to Home Advent Devotional** – Art, poetry, songs, and reflections for the season of Advent based on Faith United's 2021 Advent and Christmas worship series. - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m8nnp0FTF17cRcv6EGDyPqL286j1c2GW/view?usp=drivesdk>
 - **Advent Calendar** - Hang the calendar on your fridge and count down the days of Advent by completing the daily action prompt together as a family. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wfAdzl6pYyrsJfpkZGDztpes9F6bniBn/view?usp=drivesdk>
- **Resources for Talking about Race and Racism with Children:** Visit our website at <https://www.myfaithunited.org/anti-racism/>
- **Look for God Sightings**, looking for our good God in the world! Share the God Sightings you find with us. We will share them during our Wednesday Night worship.
- Use individually, or as a family, the worship and devotional resources connected with Sunday's Worship and Sunday School. Share with others! Visit our website for updated resources: <https://www.myfaithunited.org/worship-online/>



Mary's Good News – Luke 1:26-38

Mary was a young woman. She lived in the town of Nazareth.

Mary was going to marry a builder named Joseph.

One day an angel appeared to Mary! Mary was afraid. Why would an angel appear to her?

The angel's name was Gabriel. Gabriel was sent with an important message for Mary.

"Don't be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. What I have to tell you is good news.

"With God's help, you will be the mother of a little boy!

"You will name the boy Jesus. He is God's own Son. He will grow up to show everyone God's love."

Mary wondered at this message. She was surprised. She may have been afraid.

But Mary's heart was also filled with joy. "I am God's servant," Mary said.

"I will do what God asks me to do."



Family Spiritual Practice

Bible Passage: Luke 1:26-38

Wonder: After reading the Bible story from the Bible or from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*, wonder together. **Ask:** What brings you joy?

Do: This is the second week of Advent. Light two candles and pray together.

Pray: Dear God, we wait in wonder for the coming of Christ. Amen.

1A

Mary's Good News – Coloring Page

Mary lived in the town of Nazareth. One day an angel appeared to Mary! Mary was afraid. "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. What I have to tell you is good news. With God's help, you will be the mother of a little boy!"



1D

Christmas Thoughts – Advent Activity

For this activity, photocopy the cards below onto red or green card stock. Make a photocopy of page 1E onto red or green card stock too. Cut all the cards apart and use a hole punch to make a hole where you see indicated on each card. Thread a piece of ribbon through each hole and place the cards in a large jar. (Continued on 1E.)

<p>○</p> <p>Who will you see this Christmas that lives far away?</p>	<p>○</p> <p>Tell us your favorite Christmas song!</p>	<p>○</p> <p>Where was Jesus born?</p>
<p>○</p> <p>How many days are left until Christmas?</p>	<p>○</p> <p>Who is the Savior God sent into the world?</p>	<p>○</p> <p>Why did God send a Savior to be born?</p>

1E

Christmas Thoughts (continued) – Advent Activity

After you cut out the cards (1D and 1E), put a ribbon through each hole, and place them in a jar. Place the jar next to a Christmas tree in your classroom. If you don't have a Christmas tree, that's okay. Follow the directions as outlined in the Leader Guide.

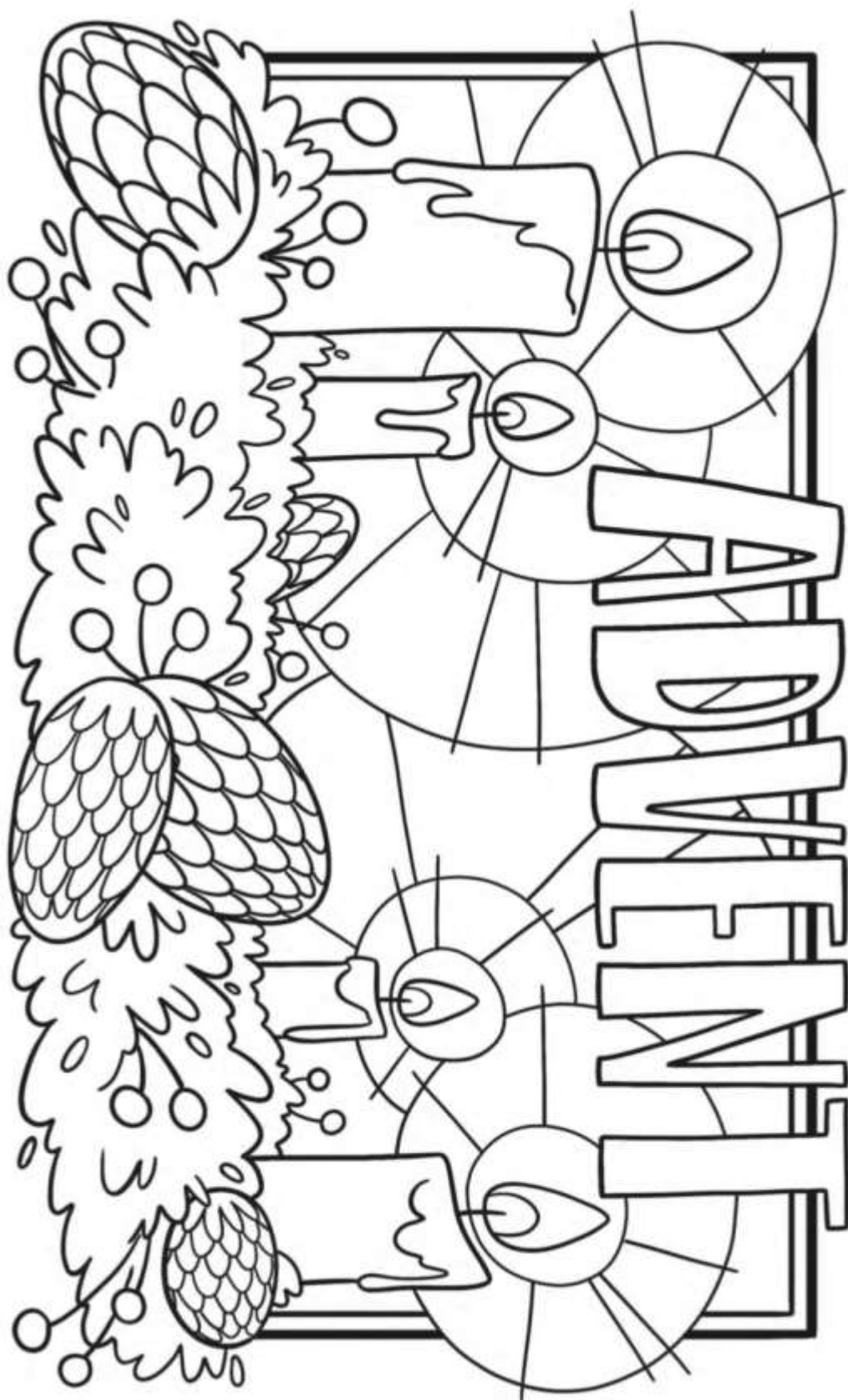
<p>○</p> <p>Tell us the best gift you received last year.</p>	<p>○</p> <p>Tell us the best give you GAVE last year.</p>	<p>○</p> <p>When will you celebrate Christmas with your family?</p>
<p>○</p> <p>Where will you celebrate Christmas with your family?</p>	<p>○</p> <p>Do your best impression of a Christmas tree.</p>	<p>○</p> <p>Pretend to make a snow angel.</p>

1G

Waiting in Hope

God promised the Jewish people that a Messiah would come. The people had hope in God's promise. This means they had faith that the future would be better. Today we wait in hope for Christmas. What are you hoping for? Draw or write about it below.









Celebrating Advent with Kids

Waiting can be terribly difficult for any one of us. Throw in the commercialization of Christmas, and waiting can become extremely challenging for children. It can create anxiety and exhaustion for the whole family! How can we help cultivate a spiritual practice of waiting with our children during this season of Advent? Here are some ideas that might help us engage our children appropriately and joyfully in this beautiful liturgical season.

Give yourself time for quiet theological reflection.

Your children are watching your example. If you are stressed out, exhausted, and feeling Grinchy, they will learn that this is how one prepares for Christmas. Together, create a quiet space. You can even make an Advent wreath together for this special place. Each day, light the candles on your wreath and tell your child that this light reminds us of God's love. Then, read from a *CEB Bible* or the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook* and pray. This ritual of self-care and theological reflection will show your children that part of what it means to be a child of God is loving yourself enough to tend to your soul.

Explain to your children what Advent is.

SAY: Advent is when all of Jesus' followers practice waiting. For about four weeks, everyone waits together for Christmas. Many churches celebrate together each Sunday while they reflect on hope, love, joy, and peace. Many have an Advent wreath they light each Sunday to guide them through the time of waiting like a countdown clock. No matter what people do to prepare for Jesus' birth, it is all done with a spirit of waiting. While we wait, we learn to love like God loves.

ASK: Why do you think we need to practice waiting? What can we do together to prepare for Christmas? *(There are no right or wrong answers.)*

Attend worship services together.

Advent is a wonderful time to teach children how to be a part of the congregation. The rituals engage all ages because each week has a Faith Word and an explanation about the theological significance of that word. They will begin connecting what you are doing in your home with the greater community of believers.



CELEBRATE WONDER® Celebration Chart

Place this chart on your refrigerator, kitchen table, or in an easy-to-access place. Throughout the week, have your child mark a space each time he or she completes an item on the chart. When a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal line is completed, celebrate together!

CELEBRATE				
<i>I made peace after a fight.</i>	<i>I tried to see someone else's view.</i>	<i>I showed peace.</i>	<i>I prayed for peace.</i>	<i>I was kind to a family member.</i>
<i>I wondered about something.</i>	<i>I noticed awe in nature.</i>	<i>I asked a hard question.</i>	<i>I saw God working in the world.</i>	<i>I learned something new.</i>
<i>I trusted God.</i>	<i>I was trustworthy today.</i>	Free Celebration!	<i>I shared something important with a friend or family member.</i>	<i>I trusted in God's love.</i>
<i>I prayed.</i>	<i>I spent time with my Bible.</i>	<i>I wondered about a Bible story.</i>	<i>I talked about a Bible story.</i>	<i>I learned a new Bible story.</i>
<i>I played with a new friend.</i>	<i>I went outside.</i>	<i>I cooked something.</i>	<i>I saw God in a friend.</i>	<i>I helped someone in my family.</i>