

FAITH @ HOME

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

Some ideas for exploring peace during the first week of Advent

You might like to read Isaiah 40:1-11 in a few translations this week.

Parents with littles – if you just need one or two ideas, the don't-miss ideas for young children are in green.

Many of these are scalable for older and younger audiences by adjusting the language.

Black font is an all-play for children, teens, and adults.

The word Advent means coming. Each week of Advent, we light a candle as we look forward to celebrating Jesus's coming. The second week, we light the candle of peace as we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Reflection on Preparing for the Messiah



- This passage talks about an end to the long wait for the Messiah and a beginning to the preparation for his coming. Think about an experience you have had of preparing for something big. Perhaps a wedding, a graduation, or starting a new job/school. Talk about your experience if you are with a group. Discuss how it felt to prepare for this big event.
- Isaiah 40 talks about preparing a road, a way in the desert, by leveling mountains and filling valleys. To help any younger members of your group put this in a modern context, discuss ways we might prepare for the arrival of a very important person today. Here are two YouTube video options you may consider watching: the Obama White House preparing for the arrival of the Pope- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKmPW_KYtSY or Princess Diana arriving at her wedding ceremony- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VAWmCEkEI> (this video is lengthy,

you may want to preview and choose a short section). Discuss the why the role of the Messiah is even more important than a Pope or a princess.

- Read corresponding verses in the New Testament discussing who was to help pave the way for Jesus' coming: Luke 3:3-7 and John 1:19-34.

Waiting for God's Promises

- Think of a time you waited on God's promises. If in a group, discuss your experience and share how the waiting felt to you.
- Isaiah 40:8 tells us "grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever". Talk with your group or reflect on your own about how this verse relates to the Israelites long wait for the Messiah. Discuss how it relates to our own waiting for God's promises including Jesus' return.

Jesus is Our Shepherd

- Our passage in Isaiah also speaks of Jesus as our shepherd and comforter. How is this image of Jesus as a shepherd different from how we usually perceive a king relating to his people? If in a group with children, discuss the differences between worldly kings and Jesus.
- **Craft activity for families:** Create a shepherd Christmas tree ornament to remind your family of the role of leader, comforter, protector, and nurturer Jesus plays in our lives.



Click the link below for detailed instructions:

<https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/christmas-lesson-3-shepherds.html#cupcakesh>

Music to Wait and Prepare

Peace on Earth by Casting Crowns: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uIUDy0EziO>

Peace Has Come by Hillsong Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BFXCd2pWrM>

Light the Light the Fire of Life