

Advent

Plan

2022

A plan to integrate the best of Advent Resources for Parents and Teachers

By Lindsay Tadros

Introduction:

As a teacher and a parent, I have done some kind of advent program for over 10 years across many grade levels. It can be challenging to find a program that is accessible and engaging, but also not cheesy. As a Christian, this is a deeply meaningful time of year for me and my goal is to pass along that understanding and reverence to my students and children.

Initially, I cycled through a few different children's Bibles and various curriculums individually. Eventually I began to integrate different elements in an attempt to catch the breadth of the advent season and was delighted when I discovered the Truth in the Tinsel program. This program was not created by me and I highly recommend you purchase it (detail in the next section).

Over the years, I've developed some "go-to" resources, songs, poems, etc. This Advent Plan puts those elements together, and fills in gaps. Don't feel you must do everything in each day, or even every day. A big challenge is knowing where to start, and having a plan each day. When I felt overwhelmed or unsure about what to do next, I would end up skipping it altogether. Also, having the necessary resources on hand is a great step towards actually doing the Advent plans. Check out the Supplies Needed list at the bottom of each week so that you can have what you need available.

Another component that is incorporated here are some seasonal goals - sending cards, baking, learning about the advent wreath, and service projects. You may have your own seasonal goals - planning them into the month will make them more achievable.

Much can be said about Advent, and like many worthwhile endeavours, it takes time to get it right. May it be a blessing to you, and may your Christmas season be deeper and more wonderful because of it.

Helpful Information:

Poems - all available on my blog (mrstshoneybees.Wordpress.com)

Craft - "From TT" means Truth in the Tinsel. Please go to her website and purchase this excellent advent curriculum. She also offers alternate schedules at the end of her curriculum that are well-thought out and helpful if you don't want to do the whole program. Link to Truth in the Tinsel (<https://truthinthetinsel.com>)

Songs - All available from hymnary.org, I downloaded the images of each hymn and printed them so that we have a song book in our house during the Christmas season.

Activities from "Advent Unwrapped" come from (<https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped>). Not everything on there is great, but some of it is real gold.

SBB stands for the Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones, if you don't own one yet I can't recommend it highly enough.

CatW stands for Christmas Around the World and is available for purchase on this blog (<https://halfwayhomesteaders.com/christmas-around-world/>)

November 28-December 2
 Week 1: Hope

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Song:	Come Thou Long Expected Jesus			O Little Town of Bethlehem	
	Optional Second Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel				
Poem:	Christmas Advent by Michaela Hart				
Reading:	Isaiah 9:2-7		Luke 1:1-25	Luke 1:26-38	
Topic:	Light	Kingdom	Zechariah	Gabriel	Mary
Truth in the Tinsel Page:	Day 1, page 10	Day 2, page 11	Day 3, page 12	Day 4, page 13	Day 5, page 14
Craft:	From TT			Make an angel suncatcher (Instructions: https://www.craftsonse.co.uk/angel-template/)	
Additional Activities:	Colour in the 1st candle from the printable advent wreath	From "Advent Unwrapped" - Isaiah's Story	Prepare Christmas cards to send out by mail	SBB: "He's Here!" Page 176	CatW: Philippines p. 30 and make some hot chocolate!

Act of Service: Make Gift Bags for Christmas Gifts, pack a gift for someone in need

Supplies Needed:

- Blank gift bags
- Decorations for gift bags
- TT Day 1 Craft (tissue paper, sticky paper, printer, scissors)
- Christmas cards
- white tissue paper
- laminator/pockets or contact paper
- sharpies
- scissors
- printer

December 5-9
Week 2: Peace

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Song:	O Come all Ye Faithful		Away in a Manger	Joy to the World	O Little Town of Bethlehem
Poem:	Christmas Bells by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow				
Reading:	Luke 2:8-20	Luke 2:21-40	Matt. 2:1-12		Phil. 2:6-8
Topic:	Angels and Shepherds	Temple	Star and Wisemen	Gifts	Cross
Truth in the Tinsel Page:	Day 18&19, page 27-28	Day 20, page 29	Day 21&22, page 30-31	Day 23, page 32	Day 24, page 33
Craft:	Colour in the 4th candle from the printable advent wreath	From TT			
Additional Activities:	Advent Unwrapped - The Shepherd's Story	CatW Mexico page 42 and get poinsettia's to decorate your house	Advent Unwrapped - The Magus's Story	SBB: "The King of All Kings" page 192	

Act of Service: Collect for the local food bank

Supplies Needed:

- printer
- watercolour paints
- scissors and glue
- string
- ingredients for Christmas cookies
- pipe cleaners
- beads

December 12-16
 Week 3: Joy

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Song:	Joy to the World			Away in a Manger	O Little Town of Bethlehem
	Optional Second Song: As With Gladness, Men of Old				
Poem:	The Joy You Give by John Greenleaf Whittier				
Reading:	Matt. 1:18-25	Luke 2:1-7			Luke 2:8-20
Topic:	Jesus' Name	Census and Bethlehem	Stable and Manger	Cloths	Sheep
Truth in the Tinsel Page:	Day 11, page 20	Day 12&13, page 21-22	Day 14&15, page 23-24	Day 16, page 25	Day 17, page 26
Craft:		From TT	From TT		
Additional Activities:	Colour in the 3rd candle from the Advent wreath	CatW: France, p. 21 and Bake some Christmas goodies together	Advent Unwrapped - The Animals' Story		SBB: "The Light of the Whole World" page 184

Act of Service: Invite someone for a meal, look for someone who you suspect may not have plans over the Christmas season. It can be hard for people to accept hospitality on Christmas Day, but by hosting them before the Big Day, it can be easier to find out if they have plans, and if they would like to join your family.

Supplies Needed:

- ingredients for Christmas goodies
- TT craft: eggs cartons, paint, sharpies, string
- TT craft: popsicle sticks, twigs from outside, glue gun, string

December 19-23
 Week 4: Love

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Song:	Away in a Manger			O Little Town of Bethlehem	
	Optional Second Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel				
Poem:	Christmastide by Christina Rossetti				
Reading:	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 1:46-56	Luke 1:57-80	Matt. 1:18-24	
Topic:	Mary/Elizabeth	Song	Sun	Joseph	Dream
Truth in the Tinsel Page:	Day 6, page 15	Day 7, page 16	Day 8, page 17	Day 9, page 18	Day 10, page 19
Craft:	From TT		Make pipe cleaner stars and suns with beads on them		
Additional Activities:	Colour in the 2nd candle from the printable advent wreath	CatW: Germany page 12		Make Christmas Cookies	

Act of Service: Put together a “Christmas Hamper” for someone in need, possibly even for the homeless. This is also a good opportunity to put together gifts for your neighbours.

Supplies Needed:

- TT craft: cardstock, paint, string, sharpie
- poinsettia's to decorate your house

December 25
Christmas Day:

Song:	O Little Town of Bethlehem	Away in a Manger	Joy to the World	O Come All Ye Faithful	
Poems:	A Christmas Blessing by Marcia A. Newton, Deeper Things by John Piper				
Readings:	“The Birth of Jesus Foretold” Luke 1:26-38	“Word Became Flesh” John 1:1-18	“Shepherds and Angels” Luke 2:8-20		
In our house, we read the first two at Breakfast, then the second one is for before gifts and then we sometimes take a break mid-gift opening and do the final two readings.	“The Birth of Christ” Matt. 1:18-25		“The Wisemen” Matt. 2:1-12		

Additional Resources:

<https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped>

-in particular the “Advent Unwrapped Activity Sheets” PDF are worth checking out, there is a printable advent wreath with candles.

-Another great resource to accompany the readings are the “Story and Activity Cards”

-If you have younger children (Gr. 2 or lower), a fun advent program is offered by Sally Lloyd-Jones, author of the Storybook Bible (<https://www.sallylloyd-jones.com/jesus-storybook-bible-advent-guide/>)

-the Awe-filled Homemaker has this program called “Christmas Around the World” and it is a fun addition to any advent program (<https://halfwayhomesteaders.com/christmas-around-world/>)