

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – First Sunday of Advent**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**  
*Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One*

**Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5**

Advent begins with darkness. In the days of the prophets, the Israelites looked to God for hope and promise. The prophets began to speak of the hope and light that would be coming to the people of God. Today we continue to share the stories of the prophets to remind us that we have been given this hope and light through the birth of Jesus Christ. During this time in the calendar year our days are getting shorter, and we wait for the light of Christ to shatter this darkness. In Advent we are encouraged to stop and listen and hear what the prophets are saying.

**Theme: Come let us walk in the light**

**Supplies Needed:** Cloth for prayer space, advent wreath, a path (see preparing the space), a flashlight, black construction paper, white or yellow chalk, matches for the candles or batteries if candles are electric.

**Prepare:** Prepare your space with a small table, or space with a piece of cloth, it could be burlap, purple or saron blue depending on your traditions. On this cloth put a small Advent wreath. The wreath can be something you have prepared together as a group or 4 small votive candles with greenery. In addition, create a path in your room. Your path can be created with masking tape on the floor, or by placing a fabric runner on the floor.

**Welcoming the children:** Gather the children together at the prayer table and ask some wondering questions:

- I wonder why the days are getting shorter?
- What are some things that remind you of the dark?
- I wonder if animals can see in the dark?

Remind the children that we have entered a new season in the church. What changes have they noticed in the room? What colors should they look for in the main Church? We are now in the season of waiting and listening, the season of Advent.

- What can help us if it is dark?

**Opening Prayer:** Light helps us see in the dark. Each week we will add to the light by lighting one more candle. Light the first candle on your Advent wreath. Have the children repeat the following prayer:

God in the night (God in the night)  
God in the darkness (God in the darkness)  
God in my heart (God in my heart)  
As I wait (As I wait)  
Keep me in the light (Keep me in the light)  
Amen. (Amen.)

After the gathering/opening prayer time, you can move to another space in the room for storytelling. It allows the children to move and stretch and renew their focus on the story.

Gather together for your story.

**The Story:** In the Bible we hear stories from special people called prophets, they said things to many people for God. One of the prophets was Isaiah, he wanted people to know more about God, and begin to tell people about what would happen.

You should use a translation of the bible that is used within your own parish.

Isaiah 2:2-3,5 (New Revised Standard Version)

Here is one of the stories Isaiah told the people:

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

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### Questions:

- I wonder where the Lord's house might be?
- I wonder what God wanted to us know about by teaching his ways?

Then Isaiah continued by asking people to walk in the light of the LORD.

- I wonder what the light is?
- I wonder how we can walk in the light of the Lord?

### Activities

These options can be done within your same space or a separate craft area. Encourage movement after the storytelling.

**Option 1:** Ask if anyone noticed the path on the floor. Let's pretend we are on the path...where are we going? Is it dark? How can we help each other? Let the children lead the answers. Turn off the lights in the room. Choose one person to hold the light (flashlight). How can we follow the light? How does the light help us? Play follow the leader with the person with the light leading. Take turns with the children being the leader.

Ask the questions:

- Was it difficult to be the leader?

- Was it hard to follow the leader?
- What would make it easier to follow the leader?

When they are finished you can continue with option 2 or conclude with the final gathering.

**Option 2:** Using black construction paper, have the children create “the light” with white or yellow chalk. Encourage them to be express “the light” in any way.

**Gather:** Gather the children together in a circle in your prayer area.

Optional: sing use Hymn #490 from The Hymnal 1982 – *I want to walk as a child of the light*

If time allows the children can share their pictures. Place the lighted wreath in the middle of your circle. Turn off the lights of the room. Ask the children if there is anything or any prayer they would like to say to the light.

**Closing Prayer:** God of Light and Life, Help us to walk in the light, help us to see our path. Amen.

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