

An Introduction to Advent Adventure

Advent is a good time to teach our children about Christmas, before it hits us! The presents, the food, the fun, the parties are all wonderfully exciting and during Advent we have a chance to weave the special truth about God into the ordinary fabric of our lives.

In these pages you will find lots of ideas about how to make Advent a special time.

1. Make an Advent Ring
There are lots of different ways of doing this. You could get a candlestick which holds four candles and then decorate it. I have always bought a square of dried flower oasis, covered it with silver foil, pushed four candles into the top and then the children have stuck dried flowers, grasses and cones on.
2. Advent Calendars are fun to use. If you can, get one which tells the Christmas Story, or if you have a fabric calendar with pockets, include a bible verse telling the Christmas Story.
3. On Advent Sunday we have a tradition of a special Advent Cake. I put candles on it, and the children all make a flag. (a white sticker on a cocktail stick.) They write on Advent ideas, "Jesus is coming soon", "Jesus the Light of the world", "Come Lord Jesus".
4. Take time to read the stories of Jesus' birth and the preparation for his coming. Use bible storybooks for younger children. With older children use the bible and perhaps a book of Christmas meditations. e.g. "Approaching Christmas" by Joyce Hugget. These different ideas help us to focus on:

Three aspects of Advent

1. Christmas is Jesus' birth-day. God became human (the incarnation). Advent is a time to look back at the preparations for this.
2. Jesus is the light of the world and by His Spirit he dwells in each one of us. We are called to take that light into the darkness of the world.
3. We continue to wait with longing for the return of Jesus.