

Set out the Advent Wreath and the Nativity characters in the brown bag. Also the tall angel, to use for the General Intercessions. Purple cloth.

(1. Dismissal from the Assembly)

2. Light 2 purple candles on the Advent wreath.

3. The Advent Wreath Song #17 on the CD "Sing With Joy"

Sitting with my brothers,  
Sitting with my sisters,  
Sitting by the Advent wreath....

Waiting with my brothers,  
Waiting with my sisters,  
Waiting by the Advent wreath....

Why are you waiting, boys?  
Why are you waiting, girls?  
Who are you waiting for?

(All stand) Stand up and sing!  
He is the King!  
He is the Lord of Lords!  
That's who we're waiting for.  
That's who we're waiting for.

4. Proclamation of the Gospel (Green children's lectionary, page 7 John 1:6-8, 28, 19-27 Included in a separate attachment—Too long to insert in lesson plan.

5. Reflection time:

In the Gospel, we hear someone witnessing about Jesus. His name is John the Baptist, and he knows that Jesus is God. Last week we also heard about John the Baptist, and here he is in the gospel again today. Today John is telling people to get prepared for Jesus.

- a) John said that the Light is coming into the world. Do you think he was talking about himself? (No)
- b) Who is John talking about? (Jesus)
- c) Can you remember how John is related to Jesus? (Cousin)

- d) John is telling people to get prepared, because Jesus is coming. Who do you think told John the Baptist to tell the people that Jesus is coming? How did John know? (God sent him/God asked him to do this job/etc.)
- e) Jesus is called the ‘Light of the World.’ Let’s all say that (all repeat “the Light of the World”)
- f) Sometimes we walk in darkness, because we don’t know the right thing to do. We have to pray so Jesus, the Light of the World, will come and help us make good choices. Can you think of some examples? (When we want to steal, lie, be rude, disobey, etc.)
- g) Who helps you to make good choices and live in the light instead of the darkness? (Parents/friends/Jesus/God/Holy Spirit)
- h) How does Jesus help us to make good choices?
- i) Why should we think and pray before making a choice about how we are going to act? (So we will live in the light and not in the darkness)
- j) How can you help others make good choices?

## 6. Celebration of the gospel message

Divide the meeting space into two sections and explain to the children that the right side of the room will represent the “light” of a good choice and the left side of the room will represent the “darkness” of a bad choice.

Instruct the children to move either to the right or left side of the room when a choice is called out. Have them return to the center of the room after each time. Some examples:

- 1) helping someone who is sad
- 2) teasing someone
- 3) saying thank you
- 4) telling the truth
- 5) telling a lie
- 6) saying I’m sorry
- 7) praying
- 8) pouting and staying angry
- 9) refusing to share

## 7. Creed

8. **General Intercessions:** Pass the angel around the group, mentioning that angels are also messengers, like John the Baptist. Each child may offer a petition and then pass it on, or just pass it on if they don’t have a petition.

**9. Closing prayer** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Jesus our Light, today we rejoice. We are waiting to celebrate your coming into the world. Guide us each day to make good choices and live in the light. Help us to listen to your messengers who help us. Hail Mary, full of grace, ... (pray the Hail Mary very slowly and the children will join in on the words they know.) In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit! (Do this a few times until they seem to know response.)

**10. Return to the Assembly with a handout to take home**