

Rearrange Our Priorities

Good Deeds Chain

Activity Objective

To motivate children to do good deeds for others during Advent

Lesson Outcome

The children will do good deeds for others.

Materials:

Markers or crayons	Tape or glue
Purple or pink construction paper strips (1" x 9")	

Activity Instructions:

- Often during this time of year children make Christmas lists—lists of the things they most want to receive as gifts.
- Let's refocus this energy and ask children to "rearrange their priorities." Remind them what the Advent season is really about—preparing for the coming of Jesus, our greatest gift of all.
- Discuss how there is nothing wrong with having a wish list, but today we are going to focus on a different type of list.
- Let's brainstorm ideas on what good deeds we can do for others. This helps us prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. Record the list on the board.
- Direct the children to choose what good deed(s) they will complete in the days to come.
- Have them record their good deed(s) in words or pictures (depending on their age) on purple and pink strips of construction paper.
- Have them glue or tape their strips as a class to connect them and create a chain.
- Encourage the children to add to their chain throughout Advent and remind them to be working on completing their good deeds.

Joyfully Make Preparations

Preparing a Gift for Jesus Booklet

Activity Objective

To encourage children to think about non-material gifts that we can offer Jesus

Lesson Outcome

The children will offer Jesus non-material gifts.

Materials:

Markers or crayons	Construction paper
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Activity Instructions:

- Remind the children of the excitement they feel when they are waiting for their birthdays. It is a time of great fun—something we joyfully prepare for.
- Even when you are invited to a friend’s birthday party you look forward to the party, but you also prepare by choosing a gift for your friend.
- You put a lot of thought into the gift because you want your friend to like your gift.
- The same is true for Jesus’ coming, but the gifts we can offer Jesus are different types of gifts.
- Brainstorm what types of gifts (non-material items) they can offer to Jesus. (Examples: the gift of prayer for homeless and hungry people, acts of kindness to our brothers and sisters, helping our parents and teachers without complaining, etc.)
- Create a Preparing a Gift for Jesus booklet by having the children fold construction paper in half. They can name the booklet as titled and decorate the cover.
- Depending on their age, have them draw or write the gifts they are preparing to present to Jesus in the days ahead. You may adjust the number of pages in the booklet based on their age.

Act in New Ways

Acting in New Ways Cartoon Strip

Activity Objective

To encourage children to think about acting in a new way—a way Jesus would like us to act

Lesson Outcome

The children will practice acting in new ways.

Materials:

Markers or crayons	Construction paper
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Activity Instructions:

- Often it is very difficult to act in new ways—especially when we are used to doing something a certain way.
- Have the children write their first names with their “other” hand. Discuss how this is not easy to do, especially when your name is a long one.
- Ask the children to think about times when we do not act as Jesus would like us to act. Think about how Jesus would like us to act in a new way.
- Brainstorm times when we need to act in a new way. (Examples: your brother or sister takes a game or toy that belongs to you without permission, or your mom and dad tell you it is time to do homework or get ready for bed.)
- Explain that sometimes we might react to situations like this with anger or disobedience.
- Discuss new ways that we can act in such situations.
- Provide each child with a sheet of paper and have them fold it in half. Tell the children that they are going to create a mini cartoon strip—on one side you will draw and write about the situation (mom asks you to get ready for bed) and on the other side you will draw and write the new way you will act or respond.
- Older children may add more slides to their cartoon strip.

Go Forth and Stir Up Life in Others

Coming of Jesus Commercials

Activity Objective

To identify reasons why people will be excited by the coming of Jesus

Lesson Outcome

The children will act out the message showing why people should be excited about the coming of Jesus.

Materials:

Optional

Materials for props or signs to be used in the commercial

- In week four of Advent we are so close to the coming of Jesus that our excitement builds. Discuss how we can share this excitement with others and stir up life in others.
- Imagine that some people don't know about Jesus. They've never heard the Bible stories and don't even know who Jesus is.
- As a group, brainstorm what we would say about Jesus' coming to others. What would you tell these people?
- We see commercials every day that tell us why this cereal is the best or why this toy is the most fun.
- Arrange the children into small groups and ask them to create a short TV commercial that tells others about why it is good to invite Jesus into their lives. Think about what you should share in the commercial to get people excited and to stir up new life in them.
- Have the children perform their commercials.