

Rhythms of Grace • Advent Year 2

Theme: Advent- A time of waiting

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2b-7

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items Needed for Session

Gathering: numbers written on half sheets of construction paper that include the number of days until Christmas, one number per page.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, cards with these numbers written on them (one number per card): 2, 3, 9, 40, 270, 1000.

Response Activities:

Cinnamon ornaments- dough made ahead of time (see resources for recipe), rolling pin, cookie cutters, waxed paper, paper plates

Advent wreaths- small battery operated votives (4 per child), glue, washable green paint, shredded wheat or uncooked rice, aluminum electric stove burner liners (1 per child) (see picture in resources)

Planting flower bulbs- narcissus or paper white bulbs, plastic cups, potting soil, Spanish moss

Cozy book corner- picture books with the nativity story featured in them

Regathering: cd player with a cd of gentle music, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100) Gather our Hearts song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Love Me* with hand motions

Session Plan • Advent • Yr 2

Gathering: Participants will collect sheets of paper with numbers on them from around the room and put them in sequence. (this represents the number of days until Christmas.) If there is room, tape them to the wall near the storytelling area.

Storytelling: With Jesus doll and Bible, all will gather for a story about “Advent waiting” and use listening skills to identify numbers mentioned in the story

Response Activities:

Cinnamon Ornaments- Using the dough provided, roll and cut into Christmas cookie shapes, poking a small hole at the top for a thread for hanging. Place finished no-bake ornaments on paper plates for drying.

Advent Wreaths- In a large bowl, mix either shredded wheat (or rice for those with gluten sensitivities) with white glue and green washable paint to create a stiff modeling compound. Shape into a wreath shape on a aluminum electric stove burner liner and gently place electric votives around the wreath.

Planting Flower bulbs- put a small amount of potting soil in a large plastic cup. Add flower bulb, root side down leaving the top 1/3 of the bulb above the dirt. Add small amount of water and surround bulb with Spanish moss. Bulb will begin to grow with consistent watering and sunlight.

Cozy book corner: arrange a variety of picture books that feature the nativity story in an area with pillows and some blankets. Allow children to quietly pass time studying the books.

Regathering: *A Waiting Game of Statues.* Gather the group and invite them to move gently around the room as the music plays. When the music stops, everyone freezes in their steps and waits for the music to begin again before they are “unfrozen.” Repeat several times, increasing the wait time at each successive turn. Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, leader gives participants a Eucharist element and participant brings it to the Celebrant then sits down in the circle around the Eucharistic table.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our Hearts, oh God.
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*,
Celebrant provides a blessing:
Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.*”
Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Story Telling • Advent • Yr. 2

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller. Give Storyteller the number cards; 2, 9, 270, 1000, 3, and 40.

Our story today is from our Bible (*show Bible*), our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

Our story today has a lot of numbers in it: here they are: (*show cards with the numbers 2, 9, 270, 1000, 3 and 40 on them. Lay the cards out on the floor where all can see*) As I tell the story, I want you to listen for these numbers and raise your hand when you hear me say one of them.

The Bible has **two (2) parts**: (*here, and in subsequent trials when a number is named, call on the child with a raised hand and have them identify the number. Hold up the card as the number is named*) the Hebrew Scriptures, or Old Testament ... and the New Testament. (*hold up the Bible and divide it in two, showing the Old Testament and the New Testament*). The New Testament begins with the birth of a very special baby. Can anyone guess who that might be? (Jesus).

Jesus' mother, Mary, had to wait a long, long time for Jesus to be born. It took **nine (9)** months- or about **270** days- for Jesus to grow and get ready to be born. That's a long time!

Jesus' mother Mary and his father on earth, Joseph, were patient as they waited and waited.

Lots of other people were waiting for Jesus, too.

More than **one thousand (1,000)** years before Jesus was born, the people of God were waiting for God to send them a Messiah- a Savior- one who would take charge of the world and make all things right and peaceful.

One thousand (1,000) years is a long time to wait!

Well, Jesus finally did arrive- and he grew up to be a teacher and preacher and a healer. He was both a man... and God. When Jesus died on the cross, he did not stay dead, but **three (3)** days later, he rose again... and he showed us that the power of God is *so strong*, that it can overcome even death!

And then, after **40** days, Jesus went to live in heaven with God, his father. He was home, at last. But before he went to heaven, he promised to come back again.

And that's what we're waiting for now.

We are waiting for Jesus to come back again... *and*, in these days before Christmas, we are waiting to hear the story about the baby Jesus being born.

That's **two (2)** kinds of waiting: Waiting for Christmas when we will celebrate Jesus' birthday.... and waiting for Jesus to come back and share his God-love with us, right here.

That's what ADVENT, this time in the Church year is all about.

What do you have to wait for, at your house... or in your lives?

(*ie: the school bus, toast in the toaster, my loose tooth to come out, etc.*)

It can be hard to wait.

Today, we will make some projects that will help us to count the days until Christmas... and to remind us that sometimes, waiting is okay, because if we are patient, we will receive something great. At Christmas, that is the gift of Jesus- and Jesus' love for us.

Let's count, together, up to XX, because that is how many days we have to wait until we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. Ready? (if the numbers for the Gathering were posted, point to them, or ask for a volunteer to use a pointer) 1...2...3...4...5...

Amen.

Continue by explaining the activities