

Sixth Grade: Lesson 11

Appreciating the Seasons of Advent and Christmas

Lesson Objective:

Having a better appreciation for the long history of Israel and the promises of a Messiah, this lesson invites youth to appreciate the seasons of Advent and Christmas through this lens.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Celebrate Advent as a liturgical season of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Messiah in history, in our daily lives, and at the end of the world (CCC 524).
- Celebrate Christmas as a liturgical season that fulfills the Old Testament promise of the coming of the Messiah.

Supplies Needed:

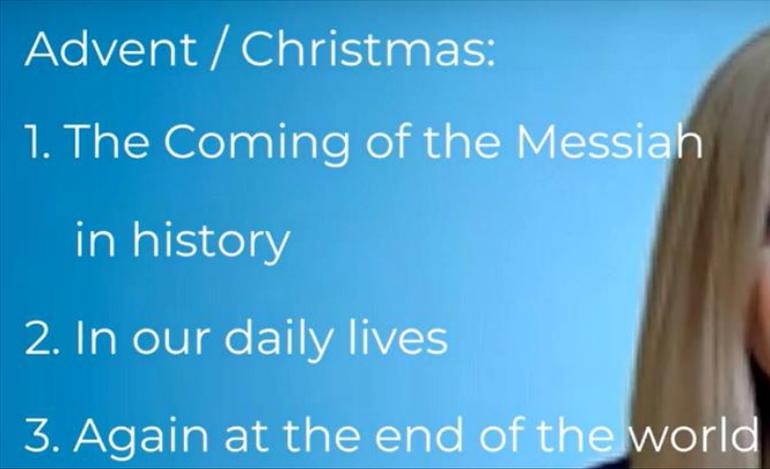
- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils, crayons or colored pencils
- Copies needed: Liturgical Calendar, Advent Bible Study Activity, 44 Prophecies Jesus Christ Fulfilled

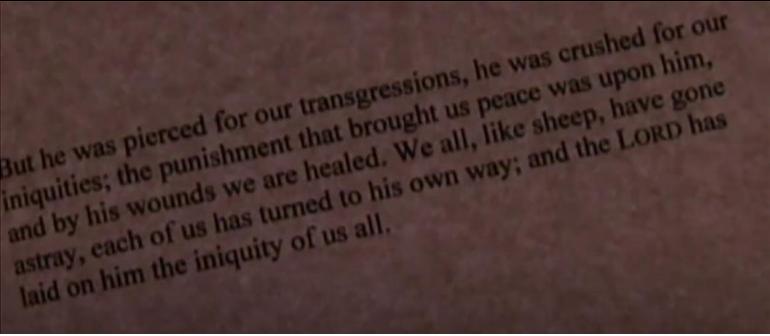
As Students Enter Class:

- Ask students to think about or sketch on blank paper their response to this prompt: Besides presents and decorations, what does the season of Christmas mean to you? What does the season of Advent mean to you? Do you or your family have special traditions during these two seasons?

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to your prayer space and pray the Our Father.
- Provide time for students to share their thoughts from the opening prompt.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 10 Video	<p>This video is 2:08 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Carla reviews the importance of the Old Testament happenings and how they have their place in salvation history.</p> <p>The history of Israel and our Catholic Christianity, has a long and deep history. This history promised the one, true Messiah, who was ultimately fulfilled in the coming of Christ.</p> <p>Messianic Prophecies are stories of the coming Messiah and have great meaning, especially during Christmas and Easter.</p> 
Messianic Prophecies	<p>This video is 7:16 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: An attorney and author, Lee Strobel, is the narrator and answers the question, how are Messianic Prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>The Old Testaments prophecies predicts the coming of a Messiah much like fingerprint evidence works in identifying a criminal in a court of law.</p> <p>Lee Strobel then poses a question: Do the OT prophecies create a thumbprint that only Jesus can fulfill?</p>

	 <p>Although this Biblical passage depicts Jesus and many people assume it's from the New Testament, it is actually from the Old Testament.</p> <p>The video continues with specific examples of how Jesus fulfills the OT prophecies.</p>
Advent in Two Minutes	This video is 2:00 in length 😊 and it explains what Advent is all about. There are words on the screen that students will need to read. This video is not narrated.
Advent Explained	This video is 1:09 in length. A priest explains that Advent prepares us for the joy of the incarnation, when God took on flesh and became one of us. Advent is a time of preparation and waiting with the Lord. We wait in expectation to prepare our hearts to receive what God wants to give us.
Why We Celebrate Christmas	This video is 1:48 in length. It is animated and may be a bit young for sixth graders. However, it is brief and explains the meaning very well.
Advent Bible Study Activity	Read the scripture passages and connect how the OT passages relate to Christ.
Liturgical Calendar	Using the sample, explain the different seasons of the Liturgical year. White is a time of celebration. Green is a time of growth. Red is for Advent and Purple means a time of preparation.

	<p>We have three cycles in the Church calendar. Year A, B and C. Please refer to the information below from the USCCB.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Liturgical Year</p> <p>The liturgical year is made up of six seasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent - four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth • Christmas - recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world • Lent - a six-week period of penance before Easter • Sacred Paschal Triduum - the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus • Easter - 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit • Ordinary Time - divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), wherein the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people <p>The mystery of Christ, unfolded through the cycle of the year, calls us to live his mystery in our own lives. This call is best illustrated in the lives of Mary and the saints, celebrated by the Church throughout the year. There is no tension between the mystery of Christ and the celebration of the saints, but rather a marvelous harmony. The Blessed Virgin Mary is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son, and the feasts of all the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants and offer the faithful fitting examples for their imitation.</p> <p>QUESTION: Why do you think the Church has liturgical seasons? What is the purpose? Is this important?</p>
Prayers of the Church	This is a handout that you have received and used previously. You may not have a need to use it for this lesson.
Discover the Prophecies of the Old Testament	<p>This document references all the OT references to Christ being the Messiah. Time permitting you may want to select a passage or two and read together as a class then discuss.</p> <p>Another option is to pair students and then given them each one passage to read and then explain to the class.</p>
Closing Activity and Prayer	Before prayer, ask students to share what stuck with them from today's lesson. Do they have any questions or wonderings about what they learned?

	Ask one of your students to select a prayer for you to all pray together.
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