

ADVENT Today Powerpoint teacher's BACKGROUND notes

ADVENT means "coming" or "arrival." It is a term from the Latin word 'adventus' which means "arrival".

FOR CHRISTIANS: The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of CHRISTIANS as they affirm that for them Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power..

For CHRISTIANS the beginning of Advent is when the preparations for Christmas really begin - the festive menu is planned, gifts are chosen and wrapped, **carols sung**, **cards** are written and posted and **houses decorated**

What happens during Advent?

During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of their Lord into the world through the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the

Advent ACTIVITY

midst of darkness. It is also a time for Christians to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time.

- Show the first four slides of the PowerPoint or read out the information from the HANDOUT sheet
- TELL the students that for Christians advent is a time for getting **ready** and **preparing**
- Explain the pair work, they are going to draw around their hand on green card and write something along each finger [fifth PowerPoint slide]

Questions to ask the group

What sort of things have they really wanted and had to wait for?

Why is it important to get ready for a special event?

Possible answers;

We can focus fully on the event.

Anticipation is half the fun.

We know exactly what we want.

We can get everything ready.

We can include everybody.

We can understand fully what will happen.

Possible themes/preparations [for the fingers]

Try to smile more.

Make up with a friend.

Say something nice to someone.

Clean my bedroom.

Be kind to someone.

Try to be more positive.

Get a haircut.

Keep a promise.

Decorate my bedroom.

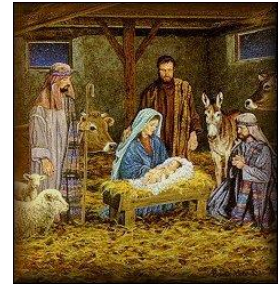
Save some money.

Give some money away to charity.

Do a good deed.

Advent Today

- Advent means ‘the coming’ of something.
- Advent is a period lasting FOUR Sundays (not weeks!) preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth.
- The first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the Christian Church's year.
- Because the celebration is such an important event, Christians want to make themselves completely ready.



Why is the Advent Wreath so special to Christians?

- The circle of the wreath reminds Christians of God, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end.
- The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that Christians have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.



Why have four candles on the Advent Wreath?

- The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent
- The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that Christians have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.



The four traditional advent themes

- The Candle of HOPE
- The Candle of PEACE
- The Candle of LOVE
- The Candle of JOY
- A fifth candle is sometimes lit in the middle to celebrate the birth of Jesus

