

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH JOY

ADVENT - REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH JOY

Revelation 19:7; 1 Peter 1:8-9; 4:13; Zechariah 9:9; John 3:29; 17:13

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 2:10-11

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus' birth brought good news of great joy for all people.
- Jesus followers can rejoice that Jesus is coming again.
- Jesus followers wait well for Christ's appearing by glorifying God.

BIBLE PASSAGE: LUKE 2:1-14

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season, God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save His people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for His return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King, and He is coming again!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that...

- Jesus has come and is coming again.
- At Advent, we remember His first coming to anticipate His return.
- We are called to wait faithfully for Jesus.



Every child should feel...

- Longing within their soul for the King.
- Dissatisfied by the things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every child should strive to...

- Wait with purpose for the return of Christ.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who has come and is coming again.



Every child should want...

- Trust Christ in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

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WITH JOY**BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 2:10-11**

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"

The coming of the King is good news.

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy..."

- Before Jesus came to the earth, there was no way for people to be reconciled to God. Sin separated man from God, causing a great chasm that could only be eliminated by a perfect sacrifice. The people looked forward to the coming of the Messiah because it meant salvation for them.
- When Jesus came to the earth, born as a baby in a manger, the angels rejoiced and brought the good news to shepherds who were nearby. The angels' declaration that Jesus' birth was good news was true for all people, not just the shepherds. Jesus' coming meant that salvation was coming to God's people.

The King brings joy to His people.

"...Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- When Jesus was born, the people who had longed for and waited for His coming rejoiced. His birth brought joy to God's people because they knew He was their Savior. They felt joy that they were no longer without hope of being reconciled to God.
- The King's second coming brings joy to His people because it means He will return and make all things new again. When the King returns again, He will bring with Him a new heaven and earth and sin will no longer reign on the earth. This is great news to God's people who long for the King to reign on earth as He does in Heaven.

The King brings new life.

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

- The announcement of Jesus' birth meant that there would be a way for people to have their sins forgiven. His birth meant that God had sent the Savior to the world to redeem His people. People had longed for this and waited for this salvation to come and now it had.
- Today, God's people look back and rejoice that the King came, and they look forward to His return when sin no longer rules this earth. The King's first coming meant that sin was defeated and His second coming ushers in eternal life free from death, sorrow, and sin.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH JOY

BIG IDEA: JESUS' BIRTH BROUGHT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE.¹

When Jesus came, the promises that His people had been hoping in for their whole lives were finally being fulfilled.

- Throughout all of history, ever since the fall of man, God had been promising a Savior.
- Throughout the Old Testament, prophets would tell of the coming Messiah.
- In the Old Testament, God's people struggled to remain faithful to Him and to trust in His promises, just as we do.
- Even though His people were unfaithful to Him, He kept His promise. Jesus came.



Bring in a manger scene, or have the children draw one. Read Luke 2:1-20. Talk about each character that is there, and how all who saw that Jesus had come responded with joy.

Jesus is the promised Messiah.

- Jesus is the promised One that His people had been waiting for.
- He is the hope of the world and the light in the darkness.²

Jesus brings good news: He is the awaited Savior.

- Jesus coming to earth was good news for people.
- God came to dwell among us.
- He came to be the suffering servant who would die in our place.
- He came to be the Good Shepherd who would lead us to safety in Him.
- He came to be our substitute, living the life we could not live and dying the death that we deserved to die.
- With Jesus, we have hope and life. This is good news for us, and we can rejoice in Him!

1. Luke 2:10: When the angel of the Lord appeared, he said, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

2. Isaiah 9:2: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH JOY

BIG IDEA: JESUS FOLLOWERS CAN REJOICE THAT JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.³

Just as Jesus' first coming brought joy, we can rejoice in the promise that He is coming again.

- Even though we will face trials and struggles in this world, the Jesus follower has hope that these things will not last forever.
- The hope of the Jesus follower is that Jesus is coming again.
- Because we believe this is true, we can rejoice, even in trials, because we know that God is using our trials to prepare us for when He comes again.
- We can rejoice because we have the promise of Jesus' return that we can hold onto.



Bring in a calendar for the upcoming year. Look ahead in it and write major events on it: big events that your church does, kids' birthdays, holidays, etc. Ask the pre-schoolers when you should put "Jesus comes back!" on the calendar. Talk with them about how no one knows when He is coming back, but we can trust that He is. We can rejoice that He is coming again.

When Jesus returns, our joy will never fade away.⁴

- Any joy or happiness that we encounter in this life is passing away.
- Even though we can experience a lot of good things in this life, they are not eternal. They will come to an end one day.
- When Jesus returns, He says that our hearts will rejoice and that no one will be able to take this joy from us.
- When Jesus returns, He will dwell with us again and we will reign with Him in the new creation.⁵

Jesus followers should take care to be ready when Christ returns.

- Scripture tells us that no one knows the day or the hour that Christ will come back.
- Even so, we must take care so that we are not surprised by His return.
- This means that we cannot live however we want, and live for our own glory, and then be surprised when Jesus returns and we are not prepared to stand before Him as our righteous judge.
- We should be diligent to live holy lives so that we are ready for when He comes again.

3. Revelation 19:7 gives a picture of when we will worship after Jesus comes, saying, "Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready."

4. Before Jesus goes to the cross, He tells His disciples, "So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." John 16:22

5. Revelation 21:3 tells us that in the new creation, the dwelling place of God will be with man. We will be His people, and He will be with us as our God.

JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH JOY

BIG IDEA: JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WELL FOR CHRIST'S APPEARING BY GLORIFYING GOD.⁶

To bring God glory means to honor and praise Him.

- God's glory is His attributes on display for others to see.
- To give God glory is to draw attention to His attributes: His goodness, His kindness, His faithfulness, etc. and to adore and praise Him for these things.
- God deserves all of the glory in the world, because He is the Creator of all things.



Have each child make a "glory" crown. Write the word "glory" on the crown for them, and have them decorate it or write other attributes about God that they want to honor and praise Him for.

Jesus followers live to bring glory to God, not to themselves or anyone else.

- We are constantly giving praise to someone or something.
- Much of the time, we are giving praise to ourselves, and we are seeking praise and glory from other people.
- The goal of bringing glory to God means that we live intentionally to make much of Jesus.⁷
- We humble ourselves and exalt Christ because He is worthy.

We bring glory to God because we know that He is coming back one day.

- We bring glory to God for a lot of reasons. He is our Creator, our Sustainer, our King, and our Savior.
- One of the reasons that we bring glory to God is because He is returning to make all things new.
- When we live to glorify God, it keeps our focus on Him and on His promised return.
- When we live to glorify God, it helps us to wait with joy until the day that He returns.

6. In Luke 2:14 and 20, we see that the heavenly host and the shepherds glorified God when they had seen that Jesus had come.
7. John 3:30: He must increase, but I must decrease.