

KINDERGARTEN

God Loves Us



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Preparing Is Good

God promised to send his Son, Jesus.
God's people waited and prayed.
God prepared to send Jesus.





Try This

At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birthday.
During Advent, we get ready for Christmas.
We light an Advent wreath.
Draw four candles on this Advent wreath.



We also make cookies and
other good things to eat.
Draw decorations on
each Christmas cookie.



Jesus' birthday is coming.
We prepare our hearts as gifts.
We will be loving to others.
We give Jesus the gift of our love.



Think about how you will show love
to your family and friends.
Draw a picture of it in the heart.
Pray, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Oh Lord, I wait for you all day long.

Based on Psalm 25:5

Advent in Families



The Lesson Your Child Learned

Advent is the season of waiting and preparing to celebrate the threefold coming of Christ: his coming long ago as a man, his daily comings in grace through the sacraments and the events of our daily lives, and his future coming in glory. The children learned that Christmas commemorates the birth of God's Son, Jesus, who came for our salvation. Add "Come, Lord Jesus!" to your mealtime prayers.

Living the Lesson

Whenever someone utters the phrase, "He had his heart set on it," I think of young Ralphie Parker in the classic yuletide movie *A Christmas Story*. As Christmas approached, Ralphie absolutely ached to own the "Red Ryder, carbine-action, 200-shot, range model BB gun with a compass in the stock" that he saw on display at the local department store. Every time I see that film, I ache right along with Ralphie, because I can readily recall a number of Decembers I spent pining for a BB gun, a bike, or, when I was seven, a real pony.

If we're lucky, we never lose the habit of such Advent yearning; we simply change the object of our longing. Instead of the big-screen TV, diamond necklace, or holiday cruise that we "know" will finally satisfy us, we can learn to hope for a deeper experience with Jesus, the one who can truly make us whole, no matter what is under the tree.

Truth be told, aren't most of the things we set our hearts on bound to be disappointing if we don't have love at the center of our lives? That's the gift the Christ Child embodies—self-giving love for one and all. That's the gift to set your heart on through all the days of Advent.

—Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (Loyola Press)



Bringing the Lesson Home

- Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
- In your family's celebration of the winter holidays, try to keep the season of Advent distinct from the Christmas season.
- Set up a stable without the figures of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Put the animals in the stable. Place the shepherds and sheep a short distance away.
- On Christmas Eve let everyone help place the figures of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the stable. Read aloud as a family the story of Jesus' birth from the Bible and sing "Silent Night."



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