

DECEMBER 10, 2017



Large Group Opening

REPENT • ADVENT 2 • YEAR B

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8

WELCOME

As kids arrive, welcome them and invite them to sit around the blue-purple cloth with their backs to the cloth.

Today is the second Sunday in Advent, and it is a time when we turn back to God. Invite all the kids to turn around and face the cloth. Next, invite the first and second grade kids and leaders to each glue a silver star onto the cloth. Remind kids that everyone will have a chance to add stars to the cloth during Advent. When all the stars are placed, light two of the four candles, and pray: **Holy God, Thank you for Advent. Help us turn back to you as we wait for Jesus. Amen.**

HEAR

During Advent, our Bible stories remind us to turn away from sin and turn back to God because Jesus is coming soon! When we turn back to God, we repent. John the Baptist was a prophet who lived in the wilderness, and when people came to see him, he told them to repent, to turn back to God. When the people repented and were sorry for their sins, John the Baptist baptized them.

Point to today's reading on page 1156 of the Whirl NRSV Bible. **Today's story is from the New Testament of the Bible, from one of the gospels. The word gospel means good news, and today's story is some good news from the Gospel of Mark.**

RESPOND

Ask kids to stand up and face the front of the room. **Whenever I say a word or phrase that describes a sin, you should turn away and face the back of the room. When I say, "Repent," you should say, "I'm sorry, God" and turn back to the front of the room.** Use words and phrases such as *fight with a friend, lie, steal, gossip, take someone's toy, not sharing*, etc. Continue until kids are dizzy from turning!

SUPPLY CHECKLIST

- Whirl NRSV Bible
- Large dark blue-purple cloth
- Basket
- Paper (silver)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Candles (4)
- Matches or lighter (adult use only)

BEFORE KIDS ARRIVE

Cut simple 5-point silver stars for first and second grade kids and leaders.

Lay the cloth with last week's stars on your gathering space floor.

LAUNCH

Stand in a big circle facing out. Invite kids to remember to repent and turn back to God every time they see a star in the sky. Pray this echo prayer together:

Holy God,
We watch and wait.
We repent and turn back to you. (*Turn and face a partner.*)
Help us stay awake.
Help us repent.
Amen.

Send kids to their classrooms.

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

SONG 1: HASHIVENU (tracks 7 and 27, page 32 in Songbook)

This song is about turning back to God. Consider teaching it during your time together this week, or simply playing it on the CD as kids arrive and leave.

SONG 2: JOY TO THE WORLD (tracks 12 and 32, page 47 in Songbook)

Sing this as an Advent song. It is all about preparing for Jesus' birth, and verse 3 is perfect for today's theme and story. Consider singing the song together, with a dance party on the third verse!

SONG 3: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This familiar song can be sung all through Advent while we wait for the coming of the light of the world.
As we sing this verse for today's lesson, turn around slowly!

Help us to repent, and turn back to you!
Help us to repent, and turn back to you!
Help us to repent, and turn back to you!
Help us turn. And repent. A-men!

