

Live Advent Wreath Program

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This drama is easy to produce, using a few costumes and simple props. It explains the use of an advent wreath while focusing on the coming of Christ.

Costumes: Twelve to fifteen children wearing green with paper leaf collars or necklaces. Optional: a large green garland for children in green to hold. Five children in green will have speaking parts.

Five candle children in costumes:

- Child 1: dressed as a prophet and carrying a Bible
- Child 2: wears a star headpiece and holds a loaf of bread
- Child 3: dressed as a shepherd and carrying a shepherd's staff or large candy cane
- Child 4: wears an angel costume
- Child 5 (*tallest child*): dressed in white and wearing a birthday hat or crown

Props: Five flashlights to represent candles to be held by the five candle children. Three lights covered in purple (*ribbon or paper*); 1 in pink; and 1 in white.

(Open with all children in green standing in a line.)

Green Child 1: He's coming! Jesus is coming! The word advent means "coming." An advent wreath helps us prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Green Child 2: The advent wreath combines the eternal circle, the evergreen of God's everlasting love, and the light of Jesus.

Green Child 3: We wear green. The green of growth as we grow close to God during advent.

Green Child 4: We wear the evergreen of the everlasting love of God.

Green Child 5: A circle has no beginning and no ending. God is eternal, and His love has no beginning or ending. When we give love, it circles back to us. The advent wreath is shaped in a circle.

(The children in green now form a circle, sitting down, legs crossed, to shape the wreath. The candle children enter one at a time, speak their part, then stand in place at the wreath, lighting their flashlight. The first four candle children will be evenly spaced around the wreath. The last one will stand in the center of the wreath.)

Candle Child 1: I am the candle of prophecy. As a prophet my words lit the way of the coming Messiah. I am only one lonely light. Prophets stood alone, proclaiming God's message. Christ's birth fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah's birth. Christmas is the celebration of the first coming of Christ and with it is the hope of His second coming.

This purple color is for repentance. As a prophet I called people to repent and prepare for the Messiah.

All sing: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Candle Child 2: I am the second candle of the advent wreath. I am called the Bethlehem candle. My glowing light reminds others of the light of the star the wise men followed. The star guided them to Bethlehem. Light is needed to guide us in darkness. We need the light of Christ to guide us every day. The glow of Christ's light should shine in our hearts always and reach out to others in need of His light.

My name, Bethlehem, means "house of bread." Jesus is the bread of life, our daily bread.

In Bethlehem, there was no room for Jesus except in a humble stable. Make sure there is room for Jesus in your heart and in your life.

All sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" or "Away in a Manger"

Candle Child 3: I am the third candle of the advent wreath, the Shepherd's candle. I am a different color, pink, to remind us of the great joy the shepherd's shared at the birth of Christ and our joy as we are so close to Christmas. Over half the candles are now lit, reminding us of the approaching nearness of Christmas!

Shepherds were the first people to come worship Jesus. We shepherds responded with great joy as soon as we heard the news of Christ's birth. My light shines forth calling all to respond with joy!

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and, as such, cares for us and guides us. The shepherd's staff guides the sheep. The candy cane is made of the red of love and white of purity entwined in the shape of the shepherd's staff.

All sing: "Silent Night" or "Joy to the World!" (*the first two verses*)

Candle Child 4: I am the fourth candle, the Angel candle. Angels are God's messengers. Angels announced the news of Christ's birth to others. We angels filled the sky with singing and rejoicing at Christ's birth. The wreath is now all aglow with light. People should have their hearts all aglow with the light of Christ.

People are all called to be messengers, too. Take time to share the good news of Christ with others.

All sing: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Candle Child 5: I am the Christ candle. I am placed here on Christmas Day. I wear white because Jesus came into the world without sin, pure and holy.

I am the tallest candle. The wise men looked in the sky and saw a brighter light than the other stars, recognizing that the heavens declared the birth of the King!

Are you wise enough to look beyond the commercial sparkle at Christmas time to see the brighter light—the light of Christ that gives eternal life?

I am in the center because Christ should be in the center of our lives.

All sing: "Happy Birthday" to Jesus!