



SERMON WORKSHOP  
CHILDREN'S SERMONS



# Children's Sermons for Advent

**LEON JONES**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church  
Ware Shoals, South Carolina

**M**ore and more Southern Baptist churches are observing the Advent season. The observance of Advent involves much symbolism. We have a responsibility to our people to communicate the meaning behind the symbolism. Following are four children's sermons that were delivered during the Advent season to inform both children and adults of the symbolism in the Advent wreath.

## **First Sunday** **God's Promise of a Son** *Matthew 1:20,21*

**Materials needed:** Advent wreath

Today is the first Sunday of Advent season. Ask, "Do any of you know what Advent means?" It means coming. Today we begin to remember the coming of Someone. "Do you know who that Someone is?" He is Jesus whose birth we will celebrate on December 25.

We will observe the Advent season in many different ways. One is with an Advent wreath. I want us to notice several things about this wreath in the Sundays to come.

The first is the candles. Ask, "How many candles does the wreath have?" Five. Ask, "What colors are they?" Three purple, a pink, and a white. Each candle represents something special about the coming of Christ.

The first purple candle has been called the Candle of Promise. Say that with me: "Candle of Promise." God promised the Old Testament prophets that He would send someone to deliver His people from their troubles. In the New Testament God made a promise to a young couple named Joseph and Mary. Ask, "Does anybody remember what that promise was?" Mary would give birth to a Son. His name would be Jesus, and He would save His people from their sins.

As the first candle is lit on our Advent wreath this morning, remember that it stands for God's promise that Jesus would be born.

## **Second Sunday** **God Lights the Way** *Scripture: Matthew 2:1,2*

**Materials needed:** Advent wreath

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Ask, "What does Advent mean?" The coming of Jesus. Look at our Advent wreath again. Ask, "What is the shape of the wreath?" A circle. The circle is a symbol of eternity. A ring is a circle. Ask, "If a flea started going around on a ring, when would he come to the end?" The answer is never, he would keep going forever. The Bible teaches that Jesus came that we might have everlasting life—life that would never end.

Ask, "Do you remember what the first candle is called?" The Candle of Promise. The second purple candle is called the Candle of Light. God prepared a very special light to show the way to the birthplace of Jesus. Ask, "Do you remember what that light was?" The star over the stable in Bethlehem.

As the second candle is lit this morning, remember the Candle of Light and the star burning brightly over the Bethlehem stable.



**Third Sunday**  
**Good News of Great Joy**  
**Scripture: Luke 2:8-11**

**Materials needed:** Advent wreath

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Ask, "What color is our Advent wreath?" Green. Green is the symbol of life. When grass is alive and growing, it is green. The color of the Advent wreath reminds us that Christ came to give us a special life.

We have lit two candles on our wreath. Ask, "What are they called?" The Candle of Promise and the Candle of Light. This morning we will light the pink candle which is called the Candle of Joy. Remember what

the angel said to the shepherds while they were watching their flocks the night of Jesus' birth. "I bring you good news of great \_\_\_\_\_ (joy—ask the children to fill in the blank.)

The birth of Jesus meant that one had come to save people from their sin. That was the good news of great joy.

As the third candle, the pink one, is lit this morning, remember that Jesus was born that He might save us. That thought fills us with great joy.

**Fourth Sunday**  
**God's Love**  
**Scripture: John 3:16**

**Materials needed:** Advent wreath

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The three candles we have already lit on our Advent wreath are (ask the children to fill in the blanks) the Candle of \_\_\_\_\_ (Promise), the Candle of \_\_\_\_\_

(Light), and the Candle of \_\_\_\_\_ (Joy). The fourth candle is the Candle of Love. A favorite verse of Scripture tells us about God's love (John 3:16). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

As we light the fourth candle this morning, remember that because of His love for us, God the Father sent His Son Jesus to be born and later to die in order that we might receive everlasting life by believing on Him.

On Christmas Eve we will light the fifth candle. The white candle is the Christ Candle. The Christ Candle is white to remind us that Jesus never sinned. It stands in the middle of the wreath to remind us that He should be most important in our lives.

Remember that the Candle of Love we light this morning reminds us of God's love. Now, also remember to return Christmas Eve with your families. During that service we will be lighting the Christ Candle.