

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 29th November
First Sunday of Advent



Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring the promise of Jesus' return!

You can find it in your Bible in:

Mark 13 v 24–37

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Isaiah 64 v 1-9
Psalm 80 v 1-8, 18-20
1 Corinthians 1 v 3-9

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for your promise that Jesus will return and this passage that reminds us to be ready. Help us to grow in relationship with you and to encourage others to know and love you too.

We pray that this advent season as we prepare to celebrate your birth as a baby, we would draw closer to you, too.

We pray for our friends and family members who don't yet know you as their friend and savior. Help us share the Good News of your love and sacrifice with them.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How do you think we can make sure we are ready for Jesus' return?

If you have ever been in a room with your back to the door you will know what a surprise it can be to turn around and see them. If you are looking for somebody to arrive or talking to somebody as they enter from another room you won't be surprised by their arrival.

We can work on our relationship with God every day and help others to do the same. This passage is not talking about us being physically asleep – we all need to sleep(!) but it refers to being spiritually asleep. If we develop daily patterns of prayer, Bible study and focus on our relationship with God, we will be wide awake and ready!

A question to answer as a family

Why do you think we are thinking about this passage at the beginning of Advent?

When Jesus the Messiah first came to the earth it was in a small town in the middle of the night while everybody slept. Even though God's people had been waiting and praying for a Savior, many did not recognize Him when He came. God's people were expecting a warrior and they were sent a tiny baby. When Jesus comes again it will be very different.

Do you think we will be ready this time?



A prayer of hope

As we light the first Advent candle, we remember the hope we have in Jesus.

We ask for God's hope to fill our hearts in these dark and difficult times.

We thank you, God, for your amazing rescue plan for us all. Thank you that you came to the earth as a baby and that you will return again. Amen.



A verse to remember

1 Corinthians 1 v 8

Jesus will keep you strong until the end so that there will be no wrong in you on the day our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Active Advent

Jesus said that we should be ready for His return, but we also have a part to play in making sure that other people are ready too and know about God's love.

Why not take on these hope sharing challenges during the first week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once.

Nov 29th

Choose a friend or family member who doesn't yet know God as their friend and saviour. Draw a picture of them.



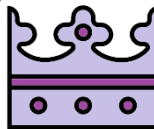
Nov 30th

Draw a heart on your picture, pray that they would know God's love!



Dec 1st

Draw a crown on the picture, pray that they would know that they are a child of God the King!



Dec 2nd

Draw a gift on the picture, pray that they would know the amazing gifts God has for them.



Dec 3rd

Add yourself into the picture, ask God to help you be a good example for them.



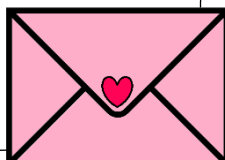
Dec 4th

Spend some time listening to God, ask God to share with you how much He loves the person in your picture.



Dec 5th

Send an encouraging message of love and hope to the person in your picture.



Family Activity 1

Set up your Family Advent Wreath.

Use the supplies in your Advent Week 1 bag and the the instructions with a picture of a completed wreath to help you set up your family Advent wreath.

Once you have finished assembling your wreath, read the "Christmas Countdown" section entitled "Hope Candle" which includes a Bible reading, a short devotion, and discussion questions.



Afterwards, light the Hope candle and pray the included prayer.

Family Activity 2

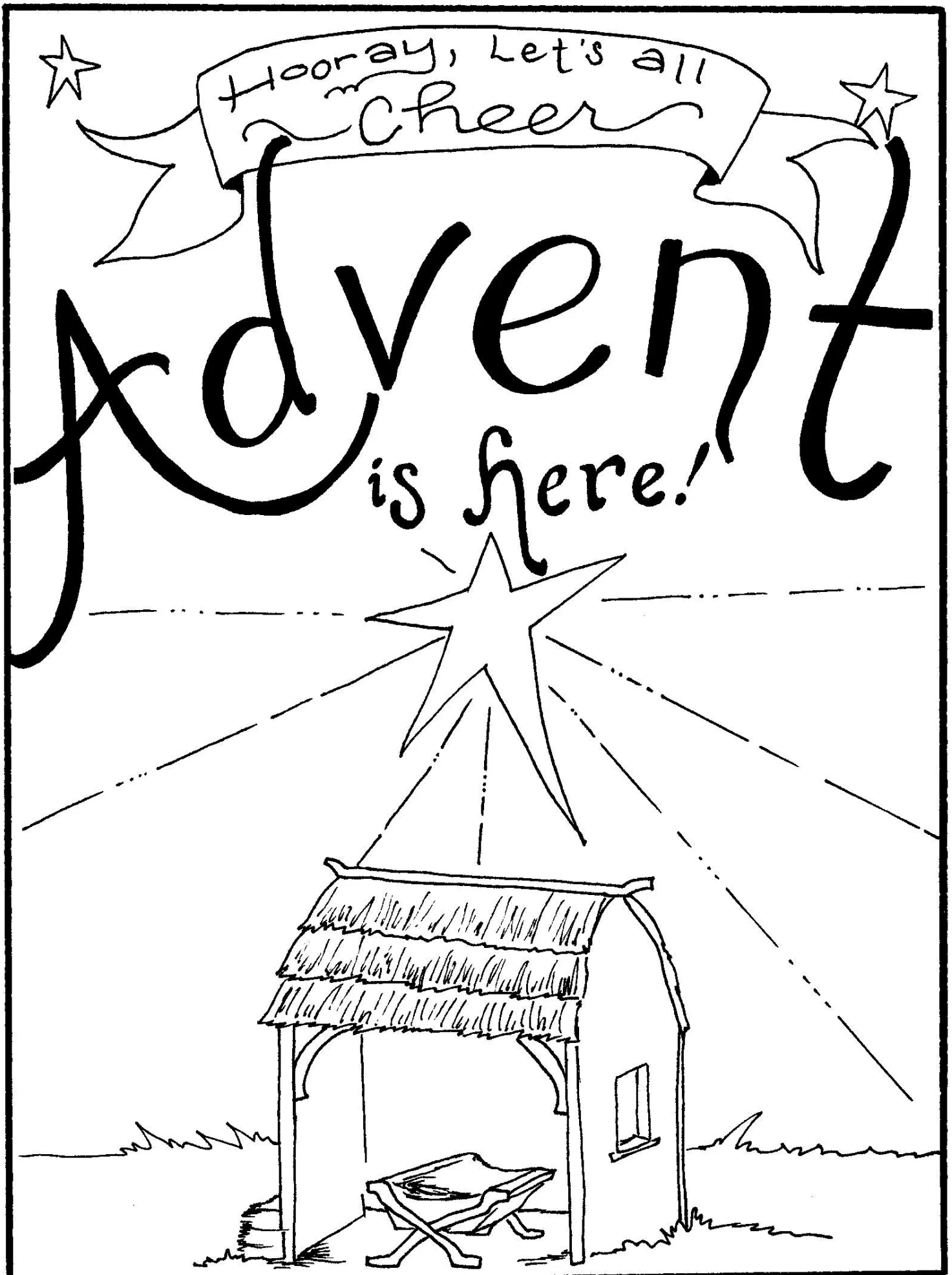
Red Light/Green Light

One person stands at the far end of the room, with their back turned to the rest of the group. The rest of the group has to sneak up on the person whenever they call "green light." At any point, the person can turn around. when they do, everyone has to freeze! Anyone still moving is either 'out' or sent back to the beginning again.

Use this game to think about being ready and looking out for Jesus' return!

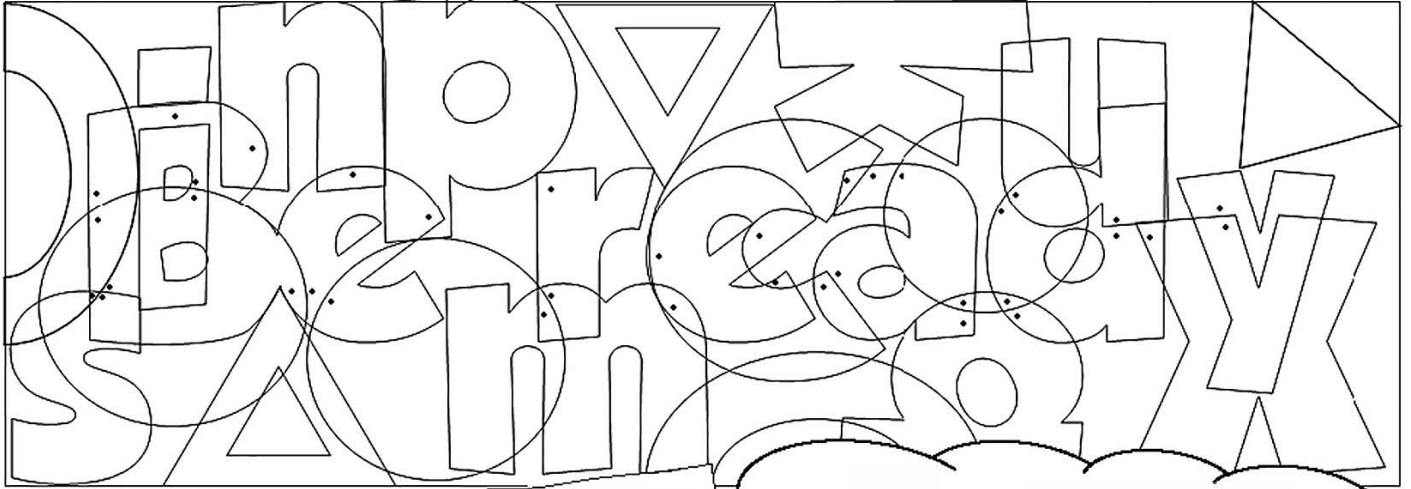


Coloring Page



PUZZLE SHEET

Colour just the shapes with a dot in to reveal the hidden message!



There are two of each clock except one.

Colour the matching clocks to look the same and work out which clock is the odd one out.



What do you think it will look like when Jesus comes back?
Draw it here.

