

Children's Liturgy Advent Godly Play

Each week you will need:

- Crib figures – Mary, Joseph, Donkey, Shepherds, Kings, Baby Jesus
- Small Model of Bethlehem

These are set up on the small altar table behind you, along with lit candles, purple cloth and cross

- Box with candles (3 purple, 1 pink, 1 white), taper and snuffer
- Purple felt roll
- 5 picture cards on stand
- Script for the week (if needed)

Structure of Liturgy Session

Godly play works best if children are sitting in a circle. Try and establish that circle as they enter the room

- Welcome and Sign of the Cross
- Light candle on Advent wreath and say opening prayer
- Sing Alleluia and read the Gospel
- Sit down and tell the Advent story for that week

Take your time getting ready to tell the story each week. Collect the candle basket, the cards and the purple roll slowly and with purpose. You could say 'watch where I go to get the story for this week' to engage families before you begin.

- Slowly put the materials away
- Finish with 5 finger prayer



Week 4 (Storytellers perspective)

Look at youtube – this gives you a really good idea of what the complete story looks like by week 4

Godly Play VBS Journey To Bethlehem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEaf16CK7m8>

Children's Liturgy Advent Week 1

Having collected cards, roll and candle box with purpose, begin when you are ready.

Everything is changed. It is now the time of the colour purple.

Take out the purple roll and begin to unroll as much as needed for the first card.

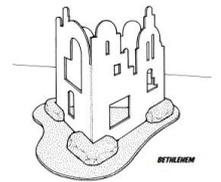
Purple is the colour of kings and queens. No one would wear purple in those days except royal people. Roman citizens would wear a little stripe of purple, but that was all. Purple is a serious colour, and something serious is about to happen. A king is coming, but he is not the kind of king that people thought was coming. This King had no army, no great house and no riches. This King was a baby who was born in a barn.

The King who was coming is still coming. This is full of mystery. You know, a mystery is hard to enter sometimes. That is why this time of Advent is so important. Sometimes people can walk right through a mystery and not even know it is there. This time of year you will see people hurrying in the shops buying things and doing this and that, but they will miss the Mystery. They don't know how to get ready and maybe they just forgot.

The Church learned a long time ago that people need a way to get ready to enter or even come close to a mystery like Christmas. The Church set aside four weeks to get ready. This is such a great Mystery that it takes that long to get ready. During this time, we are all on the way to Bethlehem.

Take the Bethlehem model and place above purple material, closest to you.

We are all making the journey. Jesus tells us in the Gospel today to "Stay awake and always be ready". We are all getting ready to enter the Mystery of Christmas, so let's go with the prophets, the Holy Family, the shepherds, the angels, the Magi and all the rest to make the journey that was not just back then. It is also now.



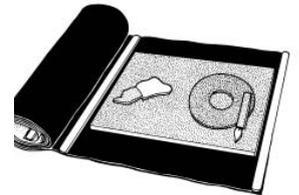
Take the first card and place it on the felt.

Prophets are people who come so close to God, and God comes so close to them, that they know what is most important. They pointed the way to Bethlehem. They didn't know exactly what was going to happen there, but they knew this was the place.

This Sunday is the time we remember the prophets. Here is the hand of a prophet pointing the way to Bethlehem, showing us the way, too.

Stop. Watch. Pay attention. Something incredible is going to happen in Bethlehem.

This is the light of the prophets. Let's enjoy the light.



THE FIRST ADVENT CARD (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

Take the first purple candle and light it. Do not rush.

Prophets are the people who know the most important things. They knew which way to go. They are the ones who showed us the way. Now we can go to Bethlehem too.

I want to show you something very strange and very important. Look. I want to show you what happens when the light is changed. Sometimes people don't pay attention to this. They miss this part.

Look. Do you see how the flame is in just one place now? It is right here. When I change the light, it will no longer be in just one place. You can't see it after it spreads out all over the room, but it is there.

Watch. Do you see it? It is no longer here in this one place. Now it is spreading out. Getting thinner and thinner and as it fills up the room with the light of the prophets. Anywhere you go in this room you will be close to the prophets.

There may even be one sitting in this circle. Prophets can be boys, and prophets can be girls. They pay attention. They know things.

Children's Liturgy Advent Week 2

Having collected cards, roll and candle box with purpose, begin when you are ready. Take out the purple roll and begin to unroll it as much as needed for 2 cards. Place the first card down

Prophets are people who come so close to God, and God comes so close to them, that they know what is most important. They pointed the way to Bethlehem. Today we learn about John the Baptist in the Gospel. He says we should "Prepare the way for the coming of God!" Here is his hand, as the last prophet, pointing the way to Bethlehem, showing us the way, too.

Take the Bethlehem model and place above purple material, closest to you.

Stop. Watch. Pay attention. Something incredible is going to happen in Bethlehem.

Place the second card down.

This Sunday is the time of the Holy Family. Do you see Bethlehem on the card, and the road? The Holy Family is on the way to Bethlehem and are going with them.

Here is the Mother Mary.

Take the figure of Mary down from the table behind you and place it on the card

Here is the Father Joseph

Take the figure of Joseph down from the table behind you and place it on the card

Here is the Donkey.

Take the figure of the Donkey down from the table behind you and place it on the card

Mary was about to have a baby. It is very hard to walk when you are about to have a baby. Sometimes she could not take another step. Then she rode on the donkey. It is also hard to ride on a donkey when you are about to have a baby. She couldn't ride another step, she got down and walked. She rode and she walked.

They must have been the last people coming up the road to Bethlehem that night.

Here is the light of the prophets.

Take the first purple candle and light it. Do not rush.

Here is the light of the Mother and the Father Joseph as they make their way to Bethlehem.

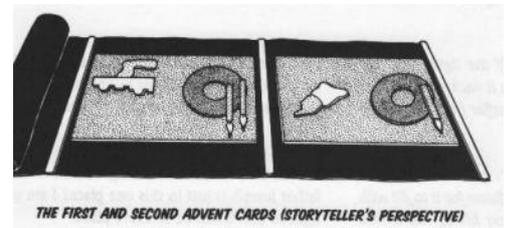
Take the second purple candle and light it. Do not rush.

Let's enjoy the light.

Now watch. I am going to change the light. Do you see how the light of the prophets is just in one place? I am going to change the light so that it can be in every place.

Watch. Do you see how the light of the mother Mary and the father Joseph is just in one place? I am going to change the light so that it can be in every place.

Do you see how the light is not gone? It is changed. It is not in one place. Now it is spreading out, getting thinner and thinner, to fill up the whole room. The room is filling up with the light of the prophets and with the light of the mother Mary and the father Joseph. Anywhere you go in this room you can come close to them today.



Children's Liturgy Advent Week 3

Having collected cards, roll and candle box with purpose, begin when you are ready. Take out the purple roll and begin to unroll it as much as needed for 3 cards. Place the first card down

Prophets are people who come so close to God, and God comes so close to them, that they know what is most important. John the Baptist was the last prophet. In the gospel today John asks Jesus whether he is the one they are all waiting for. Jesus says "Blessed is everyone who believes in me". Here is the hand of the prophet John pointing the way to Bethlehem, showing us the way, too.

Take the Bethlehem model and place above purple material, closest to you.

Stop. Watch. Pay attention. Something incredible is going to happen in Bethlehem.

Place the second card down.

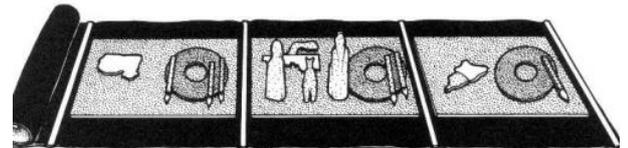
This is the card of the Holy Family. Do you see Bethlehem on the card, and the road? The Holy Family is on the way to Bethlehem and are going with them. Here is the Mother Mary. Here is the Father Joseph. Here is the Donkey.

Take the figures of Mary, Joseph and Donkey down from the table behind you and place it on the card

Mary was about to have a baby. It is very hard to walk when you are about to have a baby. Sometimes she could not take another step. Then she rode on the donkey. It is also hard to ride on a donkey when you are about to have a baby. She couldn't ride another step, she got down and walked. She rode and she walked. They must have been the last people coming up the road to Bethlehem that night.

Place the third card down.

This Sunday is the time of the Shepherds. On this third Sunday in Advent we remember the shepherds who were standing in the fields around Bethlehem keeping their sheep.



THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD ADVENT CARDS (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

Take the figures of Shepherds down from the table behind you and place it on the card

The Shepherds were trying to stay awake so the wolves could not come and get the sheep. Suddenly there was so much light in the sky that it hurt their eyes. (Heart beat on chest). They were afraid. Their hearts were beating so loudly. When they could hear something besides their own hearts, they thought they heard singing in the sky! That also sacred them until they heard the words of the song. The angels were singing "Don't be afraid". Angels often say that because it is scary to have a messenger of God come to you. The angels singing sounded something like this: 'Don't be afraid. We bring you tidings of great joy. Peace on earth and good will to everyone. A child is born. Go. Hurry. Run to Bethlehem to see the Child who will change everything"

Take the candles out one by one and light them. Do not rush.

Here is the candle of the prophets. This is the candle of the Holy Family. Here is the candle of the shepherds.

Look – there is something different about this candle. It is the colour of roses. This is to remind us of the great joy the angels sang of. It also helps us to remember that even if it is very serious to get ready to come close to the mystery of Christmas, you can't be serious all of the time as you get ready. This is the Sunday when it is time for a little celebration!

Let's enjoy the light.

Now watch. I am going to change the light. Do you see how the light is not gone? It is changed. It is not in one place. Now it is spreading out, getting thinner and thinner, to fill up the whole room. The room is filling up with the light of the prophets and with the light of the mother Mary and the father Joseph. Anywhere you go in this room you can come close to them today.

Children's Liturgy Advent Week 4

After reading the Gospel, sit down in circle. Wait until all are ready before you begin. Take out the purple roll and begin to unroll it as much as needed for 2 cards. Place the first card down

Prophets are people who come so close to God, and God comes so close to them, that they know what is most important. They pointed the way to Bethlehem They didn't know exactly what was going to happen there, but they knew this was the place. Here is the hand of a prophet pointing the way to Bethlehem, showing us the way, too.

Take the Bethlehem model and place above purple material, closest to you.

Stop. Watch. Pay attention. Something incredible is going to happen in Bethlehem.

Place the second card down.

This is the card of the Holy Family. Do you see Bethlehem on the card, and the road? The Holy Family is on the way to Bethlehem and are going with them. Here is the Mother Mary. Here is the Father Joseph. Here is the Donkey.

Take the figures of Mary, Joseph and Donkey down from the table behind you and place it on the card

Mary was about to have a baby. It is very hard to walk when you are about to have a baby. Sometimes she could not take another step. Then she rode on the donkey. She rode and she walked. Joseph was with her. We hear in the Gospel today that he listened to the angel and said yes to looking after Mary. These two must have been the last people coming up the road to Bethlehem that night.

Place the third card down.

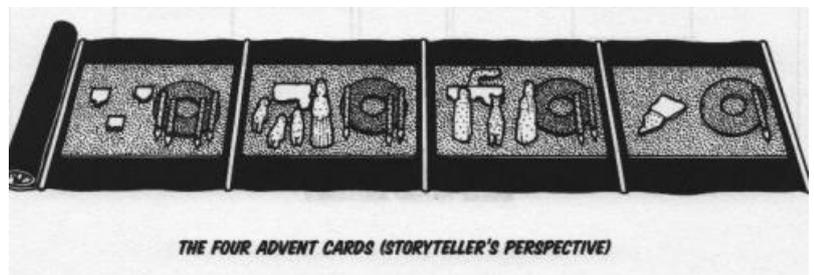
On the third Sunday in Advent we remember the shepherds who were standing in the fields around Bethlehem keeping their sheep.

Take the figures of Shepherds down from the table behind you and place it on the card

They were trying to stay awake so the wolves could not come and get the sheep. Suddenly there was so much light in the sky that it hurt their eyes. (Heart beat on chest). They were afraid. Their hearts were beating so loudly. When they could hear something besides their own hearts, they thought they heard singing in the sky! That also scared them until they heard the words of the song. The angels were singing "Don't be afraid". Angels often say that because it is scary to have a messenger of God come to you. The angels singing sounded something like this: 'Don't be afraid. We bring you tidings of great joy. Peace on earth and good will to everyone. A child is born. Go. Hurry. Run to Bethlehem to see the Child who will change everything'

Place the fourth card down.

This Sunday we look at the card of the wise men. On the fourth Sunday in Advent we remember the three kings, the Magi, the wise men. They came from far in the East, and they were so wise that people thought they were magic. We get our word magic from the name they were called in their own language, "the Magi".



Take the figures of Kings down from the table behind you and place it on the card

Of all the things they knew, they knew the most about the stars. They knew where each star was supposed to be at each time of year, so they could tell people when it was time to plant their crops or take a trip on the ocean, or cross the high mountain passes when the snow wasn't too deep.

Suddenly they saw a wild star. It was not on any of their star maps. It went where it wanted to go. It did not stay put. They decided to follow the wild star to see where it was going and what it wanted to show them.

They followed the star all the way to Bethlehem, but they came from so far away that they got there after the baby was born. They are always late it seems. Every year they are late. They usually don't arrive until January 6th, but we remember them anyway because, like us they too are on the way to Bethlehem.

Here is the candle of the prophets. This is the candle of the Holy Family. Here is the candle of the shepherds, Here is the candle of the wise men.

Take the candles out one by one and light them. Do not rush.

Let's enjoy the light.

When ready, unfold the last bit of cloth.

Look! When you come to the mystery of Christmas, everything changes. It becomes the colour of pure celebration. This is when the baby is born, the one we have been waiting for.

Emmanuel was his name – a name meaning God is with us

Take the figure of Jesus down from the table behind you and place it on the card

Here is the Christ Child, here is Emmanuel, the mystery of Christmas. This is amazing, but of all the creatures there that night, perhaps the most amazed was the old cow.

Take the figure of the cow down from the table behind you and place it on the card

When the old cow came up to the feed box in the morning to eat some straw it found a baby lying in the manger. Someone had put a soft cover over the straw. The manger had become a bed, All the old cow could do was look and look at the baby with its big brown eyes.

Wait! Something is missing! I wonder what it could be? This is the Christ candle. Now, let's enjoy its light, too. Now watch. I am going to change the light.

Now I am going to change the light of the Christ candle. Look. It too is spreading out to fill up the room. As it spreads out, it gets thinner and thinner until you can't see it at all. That doesn't mean that its gone. It only means that you can't see it. You can still feel the Christmas light. It is filling up the room with the prophets, the Holy Family, the shepherds and the three kings. Anywhere you go, you can come close to them.

