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THE YEAR IN OUR CHURCH Advent

During Advent, Our Families Prepare for and Look Forward to Christmas

Activity: The child plays a matching game that features ways families prepare for and look forward to Christmas.

Concept

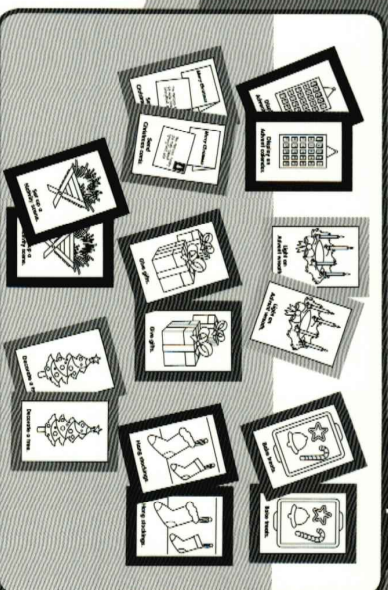
During Advent, families do many things together that help them look forward to Christmas.

What You Need

- ▶ pictures of Christmas and non-Christmas items: apple tree/Christmas tree; pair of socks/Christmas stocking; brown bag/Christmas present, and so on
- ▶ photocopy of Side B of this Lesson Card
- ▶ eight sheets of construction paper in eight different colors
- ▶ art supplies
- ▶ envelope

At Home

Invite the parents to play the matching game with their child. Suggest that they use the cards to connect each item to their own family traditions. Encourage them to add pictures of their own to add to the matching cards.



Lesson Steps

1

Opening Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: ***Dear God, help us prepare for Christmas when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus.*** Pray the Sign of the Cross.

2

Begin with Life Experience

Show the child pairs of illustrations or photos that depict similar items, one of which is related to Christmas. As you display each pair, have the child choose which of the two pictures is something we see at Christmas. Set aside the Christmas items and say: ***These are things that remind us of Christmas. During Advent, our families do many things to prepare for Christmas. Each year we look forward to these things.***

3

Connect

In advance, make two photocopies of Side B of this card and cut on the lines as indicated. Give each card to construction paper. Choose the same color for the matching pairs to aid the child in matching the cards. Each pair of matching cards should be a different color. Mix up the cards and place them faceup on a table. Help the child identify a matching pair. Point to a card, identify the activity, and use it to complete this sentence: ***We prepare for Christmas when we _____.*** Have the child point to or name the card to complete the sentence. Continue until all the cards have been matched. Store the cards in an envelope.

4

Closing Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: ***Dear God, praise be your name. Thank you for the season of Advent.*** Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

