

B

THE YEAR IN OUR CHURCH Advent

Example

Advent Is Four Weeks Long

Activity: The child recognizes that Advent is four weeks long by sequencing the lighting of candles each week of Advent.

Concept

During the four weeks of Advent, we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth.

What You Need

- ▶ a jacket, socks and shoes, other objects to be used to show sequence
- ▶ images for Advent and Christmas from the Internet
- ▶ calendar that shows the four weeks leading up to Christmas
- ▶ photocopy of Side B of this Lesson Card
- ▶ art supplies
- ▶ sheet of construction paper

At Home

Invite the parents to review the Advent sequence with their child. If possible, have them display an actual Advent wreath and connect each candle with the corresponding Advent panel.

Lesson Steps

1

Opening Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: **Dear God, please guide us as we celebrate the season of Advent.** Pray the Sign of the Cross.

2

Begin with Life Experience

Show the child the socks and shoes. Ask: **What should I do first, put on socks or put on shoes?** Have the child say or show what to do first. Repeat with putting on a jacket and fastening it or other activities of your choice. Say: **There are some things we must do in order.** Display the image(s) for Advent and say: **During Advent we light the candles on an Advent wreath in order.** Show the child the calendar and point out where Advent begins. Then trace a week to the next Sunday and say: **We light a candle on the first Sunday of Advent.** Trace the next week and say: **We light two candles on the second Sunday of Advent.** Continue for the third and fourth Sundays. Display the image(s) for Christmas and say: **After all four candles are lit, we know Christmas is near. Then we will celebrate Jesus' birth.**

3

Connect

In advance, cut apart the Advent sequence cards from the photocopy of Side B of this card. Mix them up and place them in front of the child. Say: **These are pictures that show what we do during Advent. Let's put the pictures in the right order.** Guide the child to order the pictures, pointing out the number of candles that are lit in each one. Review the calendar as needed. As the pictures are placed in order, read aloud each card. Assist the child in gluing the panels onto a sheet of construction paper in the correct order.

4

Closing Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: **Dear God, thank you for your, Son, Jesus, and for the season of Advent.** Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

