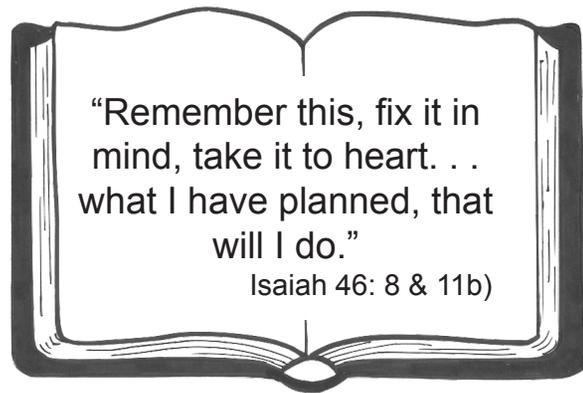




Preparing our Hearts for the Christmas Season



1st Sunday: Nov. 29

TRUTH SEEKER



ACTIVITY

Written & Illustrated
by Anita Brandon

“Teachable Moments”

OBJECTIVE: With this lesson, we will interrupt our study of Abraham to focus on the Christmas Season, learning about the Celebration of ADVENT.

- ★ **Simple Truths:** You will notice that the four simple truths of this lesson will use a few of the simple “learning questions”----What? When? Why? and How?
- ★ **Activity Pages:** The Parent pages (Simple Truths, Suggested Advent Activities, and Symbols & Color-page #4) will help you navigate these learning times, but the actual activity pages for your children contain a lot of information as well. Remember, this is just a beginning; in your reading of God’s Word you will not doubt find additional info to include in future years.

#1 - PRAYER TIME

STORY TIME: Celebrating Advent

#2 - God’s Plan: INCARNATION

#3 - The Story of God’s Plan

#4 - Truth Search

#5 - Advent Wall Art

#6 - The Advent Wreath (coloring project)

- ★ **Enjoy singing together:**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

- ★ **Memory Verse and Prayer Times**
This verse, Isaiah 46:8 & 11b, is just a suggestion. A substitution is certainly fine if you find another verse in your study that seems more appropriate for your family.

(Permission granted to make extra copies of coloring or game pages for other children in the family as needed.)

Simple Truths

1 What is ADVENT?

What does the word “Advent” mean?

- The meaning of this word is literally: “Coming” or in a more modern vernacular: “Finally Here!”
- The season of ADVENT is historically associated with church denominations structured with liturgical background, like Catholics and Lutherans. The meaning of ADVENT for hundreds of years has taken on a form of celebration that appropriately fits the theology and worship of many evangelical churches as well. And why not?--the focus is on Jesus Christ, the one who has come to fulfill God’s Plan.

What is the focus of ADVENT?

- The Christmas season of ADVENT surrounds the central idea of the coming of Christ; remembering his birth and the truth that Jesus is the Light of the World and truly the salvation of the lost.

How do we know about ADVENT?

- GOD revealed His plan for the INCARNATION to us through the O.T. prophets. Remember that John the Baptist was even called a N.T. prophet.

“And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation” (John 1:76,77).

Who Are PROPHETS?

POSITION: Chosen & Called by GOD
PURPOSE: To reveal GOD’s Plan
PROCLAMATION: Future events--In this lesson,
the coming MESSIAH

2 When is ADVENT?

Is it the same time every year? --NO

- Each year ADVENT is appropriately celebrated on the four Sundays before Christmas and concludes on Christmas Eve. This year the dates for ADVENT will be:

1st Sunday: Nov. 29
2nd Sunday: Dec. 5
3rd Sunday: Dec. 12
4th Sunday: Dec. 19
5th Christmas Eve- Dec. 24

3 Why Celebrate ADVENT?

Why is it so important in our lives as Christians?

- There is an element of HOPE and anticipation when we focus on particular aspects of the INCARNATION.
- This is a special time for remembering and preparing our hearts and minds to focus on the INCARNATION.

4 How is ADVENT Celebrated?

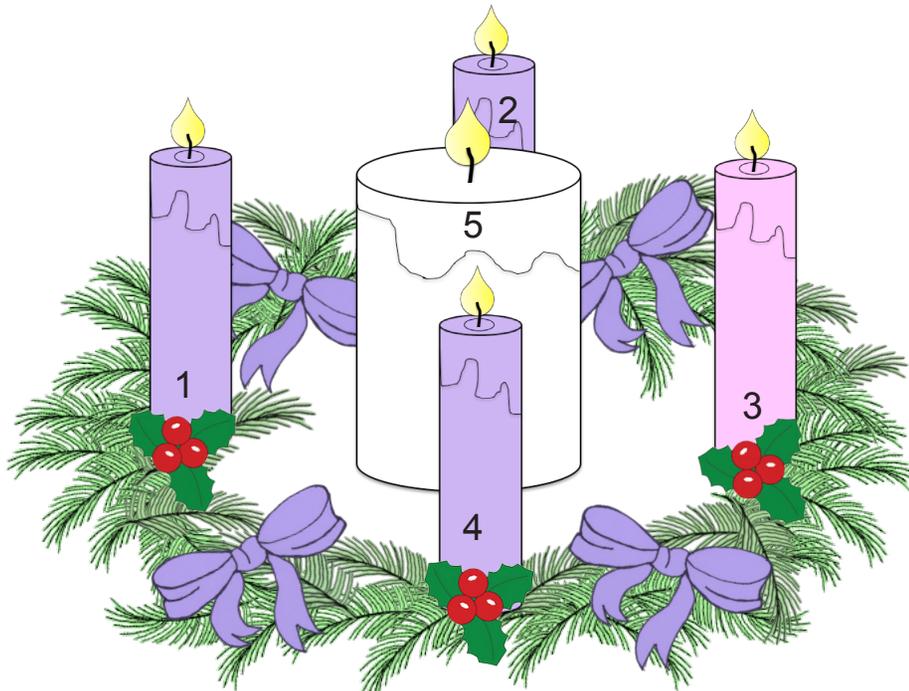
Does everybody celebrate ADVENT in the same manner? --NO

- History has provided in words and pictures the variety of ways that ADVENT is celebrated in different church and cultures. Some families have created memorable moments for their traditions.

What would a typical ADVENT celebration be?

- A church like ours celebrates ADVENT with three purple candles, one pink, and a white one in the middle of an evergreen wreath. (On Activity Page #4 you will see more info about symbols and colors.)

Suggested Activities for the ADVENT Celebration



The ADVENT WREATH is a circular garland of evergreens representing **eternity**. On that wreath are 4 or 5 candles typically arranged. Each represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the LORD, Jesus Christ. One candle is lit on each Sunday of advent, and the 5th candle on Christmas Eve.

With each week of ADVENT, you and your family can focus on the celebration elements mentioned here. Be as creative as you wish by adding other carols to sing, additional scriptures appropriate to the event represented by each candle, or invite another family to share with you in the celebration. The following lessons will focus on the subsequent candles and together you can prepare your hearts and minds to enjoy the true "Reason for the Season." May GOD be glorified!

Order of Candles



Sunday, NOV. 29: **"Prophet's Candle"**
 Focus: HOPE
 Scripture: Jere. 23:5 & 6; Isaiah 9:2,6 & 7
 Carol to sing: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*



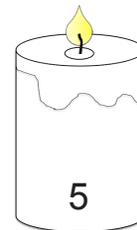
Sunday, DEC. 6: **"Bethlehem's Candle"**
 Focus: LOVE
 Scripture:
 Carol to sing:



Sunday, DEC. 13: **"Shepherd's Candle"**
 Focus: JOY
 Scripture:
 Carol to sing:



Sunday, DEC. 20: **"Angel's Candle"**
 Focus: PEACE
 Scripture:
 Carol to sing:



Christmas Eve - DEC. 24: **"Christ's Candle"**
 Focus: LIGHT & PURITY
 Scripture:
 Song to sing:

This page will appear in subsequent lessons with information on songs and scripture, as well as activities for the rest of the candles of ADVENT.

REMEMBER, TRUTH SEEKERS-----

Ask God to guide your study and help you learn.



Prayer Time



STORY TIME

Celebrating Advent

Preparing our Hearts for the Christmas Season

As TRUTH SEEKERS, this lesson is going to be important for us because we need to be reminded each year of the reason we celebrate Christmas.

In past lessons you learned that God made a plan even before He created the world. GOD, the Father, JESUS, the Son and the HOLY SPIRIT decided on each role they would play to fulfill this plan. Throughout history, GOD has been working out His plan and telling us about it in the BIBLE.

The prophets of the Old Testament told about it long before it ever happened. Guess what? It did happen, just as God said it would.

Every year, it is very important to be ready to celebrate JESUS' coming to earth as a man. Think of it. . .God becoming a human being! Remember, He came for a special reason---to die for us, to clean up our sinful hearts. In our church, we have a very special word we use when we talk about "GOD becoming man." Are you ready?---INCARNATION

Having a special way to celebrate this event helps us to keep our hearts and minds prepared to thank God and praise His name for who He is and the special gift of salvation that He gives to us through His Son, JESUS.

GOD'S Plan

It is all about JESUS.

Do you remember?



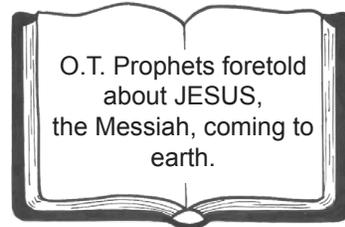
(To look at the bigger picture of GOD'S Plan go this previous lesson.)



Incarnation



Raised from death to life



Genesis



Curse of SIN



GOD Becoming Man

We are celebrating the _____ when we celebrate ADVENT.



"God became a man so that men could become sons of God." C.S. Lewis

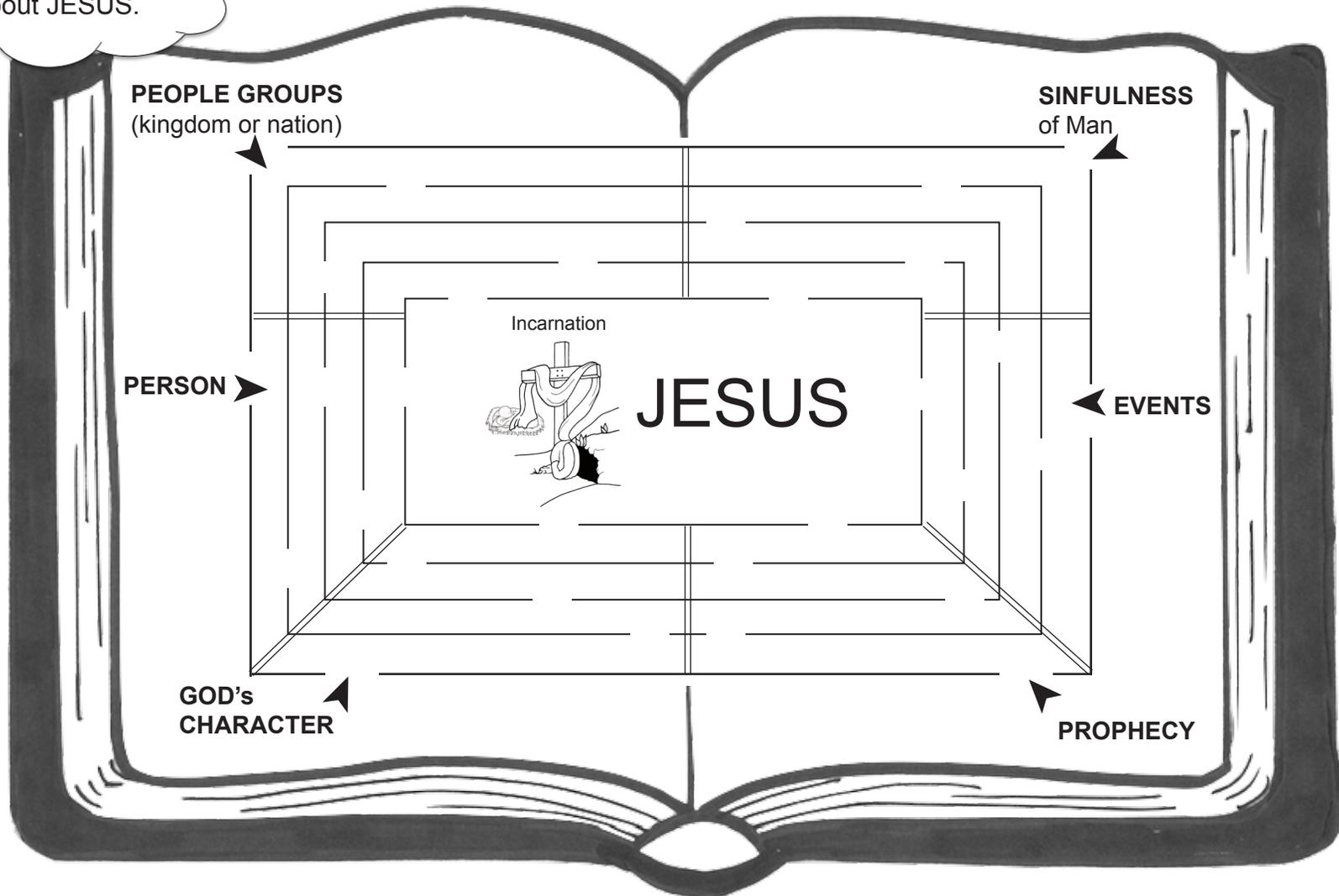
LETTER CLUES



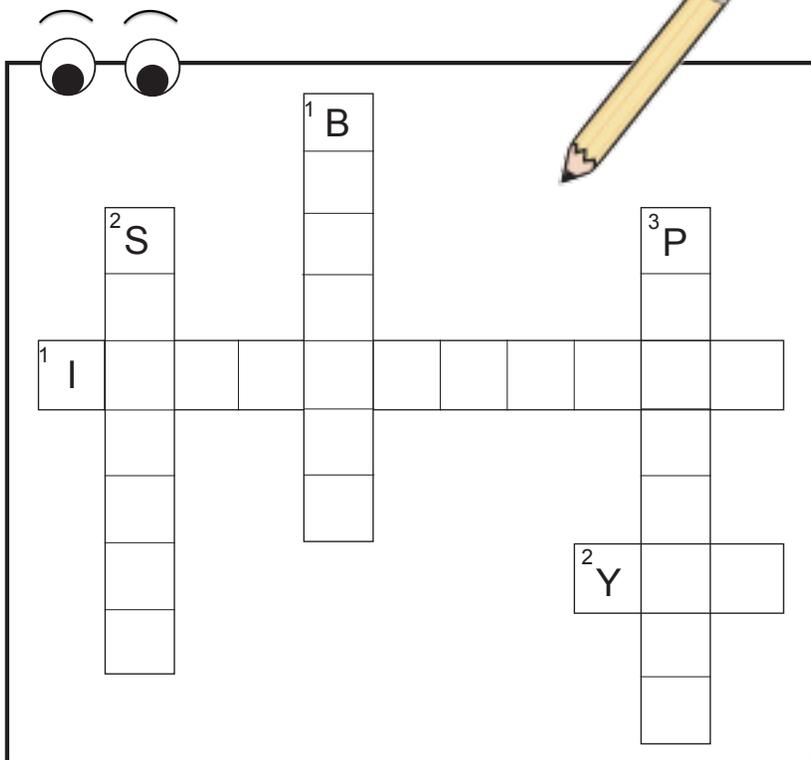
The Story of GOD'S PLAN

TRUTH SEEKERS: When you read God's stories, ask yourself this question----- What does God want me to know about JESUS?
PRAY and ask God to show you; ask a parent for help.

Start with each arrow on the path to discovery about JESUS.



TRUTH SEARCH



DOWN

1. When did GOD make His plan? (I Peter 1:20)
_____ He created the world.
2. The most important event in GOD's creation was the _____ of His Son. (Galatians 4:4)
3. People living in Old Testament times knew JESUS was coming to save them because GOD sent _____ to tell them. (Matthew 1:22)

PARENTS

Symbolic Images & Colors



WHY Green? WHY a Wreath?

The green color of the evergreen reminds us of the ETERNAL character of our Lord and Savior. When placed in a circle shape it reminds us of His sovereign reign with no beginning and no end.



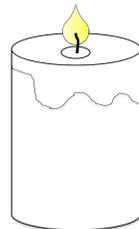
WHY Purple?

The "Prophets Candle", "Bethlehem Candle", and the "Angel's Candle" are all purple. Traditionally, purple reminds us of royalty and sovereignty; in this celebration we are preparing for the coming King. Read through the gospel accounts of Christ birth and find references to His kingship.



WHY Pink?

This is the "Shepherd's Candle"; pink represents JOY --Do you remember their response after seeing the angels and hearing the good news? (See Luke 2: 20).



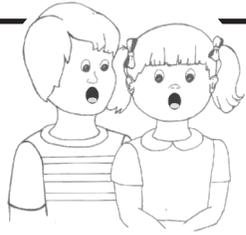
WHY White?

This is the "Christ Candle"; white represents LIGHT and PURITY because He is our sinless, pure Savior--the LIGHT of the world.

*"In Him was life, and that life was the light of men."
(John 1:4)*

ACROSS

1. JESUS' coming to the earth is called the _____ . (HINT: look at Activity Page # 2)
2. Is GOD's plan certain; will it happen just as He says? (Isaiah 46:11b) YES or NO



“Prophet’s Candle” - HOPE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley
 Music: Rowland H. Prichard

F C Dm B^b C7 F Dm Gm C7

Come, Thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple
 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a

8 F F C Dm B^b C7 F Dm

free; From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our
 king, Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious

15 Gm C7 F Am Dm Gm C7 F

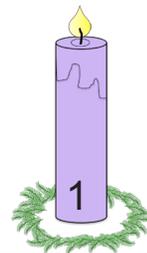
rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of
 king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in

22 Dm Am Gm7 C7 F Gm F

all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry
 all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all suf - fi - cient

28 Gm C7 Am B^b C7 F

na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



ADVENT WALL ART

LIGHT

PEACE

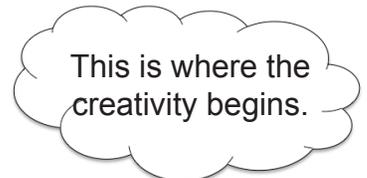
JOY

LOVE

HOPE

Supplies:

- Purple & Pink cardstock or construction paper
- White cardstock (5 sheets) (8-1/2 by 11)
- scissors
- Glue stick or Elmer's
- Crayons or Markers



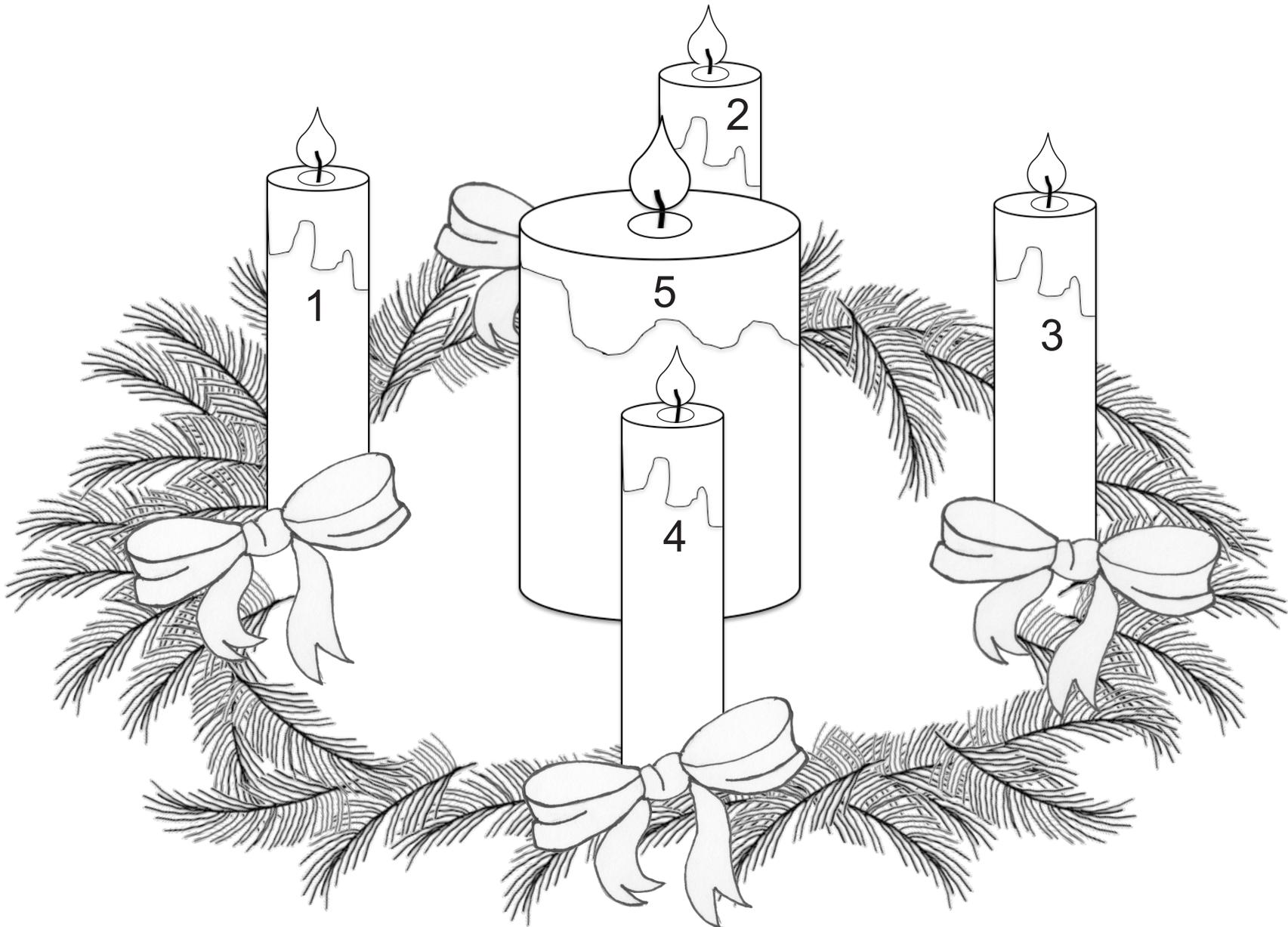
This is where the creativity begins.

Paper chains: Cut 6” strips of purple & pink paper. The picture on the left gives you a visual, but you can make your chains as long as you wish. Glue the ends of each strip interlocking them as you go.

Word Signs: Your call on how you put the letters on the paper--crayons, markers. This is where you and your children get creative. As you study together the different details of the story, perhaps they might even draw pictures of the characters in the scene.

Find a Wall to Display: Add a new chain and the word sign each week. HAVE FUN!

The Advent Wreath



Color the wreath, ribbons and candle No. 1, then in the following lessons you may finish coloring each of the other candles.