

Family Look Book Took
Advent 2020
PEACE

You are invited to light two purple candles on your Advent Wreath. The first candle is the candle of **HOPE** and the second candle is the candle of **PEACE**. If you do not have an Advent Wreath, light two candles that you have in your home. This light is a reminder that God is present with us.

- Leader: Let us pray. God of Advent, open our hearts to **PEACE** today and always. Amen.

Look

The second week of Advent we light the purple candle of **PEACE**. As we move closer to the birth of Jesus - the Prince of Peace we become more aware of the places in the world, in our families, in our relationships and in our hearts that have not achieved peace. Pray for peace this week. Carry these words in your heart this week: Let peace begin with me.

1. What is one way you can be a messenger and share **PEACE** with someone?
2. Where is one place you know that there isn't **PEACE**? How can you help and let people know about this?

Book: Malachi 3: 1-4

Open your bible to Malachi. Malachi is found in the Old Testament, after Zechariah and it is the last book in the Old Testament. When you find it turn to Chapter 3 and read verses 1-4.

“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; 3he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years”.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Summary

This summary can be used to be used to aid in facilitating a discussion with your children. Remember there are no right or wrong answers. This is a time to talk about the story of God that is our story too.

During Advent, we are getting ready for Jesus to be born. Last week we talked about how God sent messengers called prophets to help people get ready for God to come to earth. One of these messengers was called Malachi. Malachi means “my messenger”. How cool is that!

Malachi knew that the people were not ready for God to come. They were not behaving like God wanted them to. They treated people badly. God wanted to give them the best of what they had as an offering, and instead they gave God the yucky stuff they did not want. This made God sad. God loved them and knew they could be loving and good, with some help. So he gave Malachi a message for the people.

Like most people, these people were not all bad. They had good in them all mixed up with the bad. So Malachi told them they were like precious metal pulled out of the ground-very special but a lot of bad mixed with the good. Gold and silver come out of the ground in chunks of rock and dirt. It is not very pretty and has a bunch of other types of metal and rock mixed in. *(see photo)* the dirt and yuk have to be cleared out to have just the gold. We do this in our lives by praying, asking God to guide and help us in our lives to sift through the yuk and live as his disciple. *(Remind your family that we do this each week at service with the seashells- giving all our troubles, worries, hurts and yuk to God starting new each week and also with the prayer of confession that follows. This can be found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pg. 360).*



God is sending someone, Malachi said, who will be like a refiner and purifier of gold. In this picture we see the shovel picking up dirt and gold. Malachi told the people, “God will send someone to take away the bad stuff and make what is good in you even better.

Then you will the pure and shiny gold and this goodness in your life and the good you do for others will be an offering to God.

1. Who do you think Malachi was talking about?
2. What are some of the messages that Malachi shared with the people?
3. How do you think Malachi felt about sharing such important messages?
4. Share a time that you were picked to share an important message?
(Some ideas to prompt discussion: At school? At home? At church? With your family?) What was that like for you?
5. Is it hard for you sometimes to be nice, kind and loving? What can you do to help yourself with that?

Took

During December many people are totally focused on being nice in order to get good gifts from Santa Claus. Malachi does not want us to be good in order to get gifts from God or so that God will like us. The prophets want us to be good because God created us to be good. We are to be our very best to show God appreciation for how God has made us. We are created in His image.

1. What are some ways you can be a messenger like Malachi and tell people that it is Advent and we are waiting for coming of Jesus?
2. How is God working in your life, refining you like the gold in the story, blessing you to be a blessing to others?

(If you like email your responses to mcareyback@sdlife.org for us to share with our community. No names will be used).

Closing Prayer:

Close with the Advent word for week. The word is **PEACE**.

*God of Advent today we pray for **PEACE**. Let it begin with me. Amen.*

Family Activity: Flaunt the Color Purple

1. Keep flaunting the color **purple**. Remember this is a visual reminder of the Advent Season. Purple is an Advent stoplight saying “Wait. It’s not Christmas yet, slow down and pay attention to this time.
2. Have you children/family be messengers. Write a note to someone wishing them a Blessed Advent, Happy Holiday, Happy Chanukah, etc. and deliver them. Below is a link to Christian Holidays in December. Did you know there are over 10 in Christian faiths? This is a wonderful way to share and explore the Christian faith of our brothers and sisters in the world.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/02/december-religious-holidays_n_1126507.html

3. Music: Let there be Peace on Earth

Listen to the song that moved Pope Francis during the interreligious encounter at the Ground Zero memorial in New York. This is performed by The Young People's Chorus of New York City.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fH2FekyDKdw>

