

How Do They Celebrate Christmas?



Children's Sermons & Activity Sheets
for the Sundays of Advent & Christmas Day

How Do They Celebrate Christmas?

Light of the World

A Children's Sermon for the First Week of Advent

Needed: An Advent wreath

Who knows what an Advent wreath is? Can you spot the Advent wreath here in our church, and point to it? *(Let children point to the wreath.)* Good job. Do any of you have an Advent wreath at home? *(Let children respond.)* You might have one with real candles that your parents light. You can even make one yourself, with candles that you pretend-light by cutting a little flame shape out of orange paper and gluing it at the top of the candle.

Did you ever wonder why do we light candles at Advent? Or even put them on an Advent wreath? And for that matter, why do we put lights on a Christmas tree or sometimes even decorate our house or yard with lights? We do it to remind us—and everyone who sees these glowing lights—that Jesus is the light of the world! All of these different lights remind us that Jesus, the Light of the World, came into the world on the very first Christmas, and that someday, he will come again!

At this time of year, all kinds of special lights are glowing for Jesus, the Light of our World. In Germany and Denmark, candles are lit on Advent wreaths, just like we do here. In Ukraine, families light a candle in a loaf of bread and place it in the middle of their table. In Brazil, gigantic trees made of lights can be seen all over. In Argentina, families float "globos," paper balloons lit from inside, high into the air.

So many different lights ... all meant to remind us of just one thing: that Jesus is the Light of the World. They remind us that God loves each and every one of us so much that he sent his only son to be born a human, just like us, and to teach us all about God's love, and to bring us the gift of his mercy and lead us to heaven. In these 4 weeks of Advent, while you're waiting for the big celebration of Christmas day, try to spend a little bit of time each day thinking about how much God loves you. You are special and precious to him, and he wants you to feel his love in your heart, so that you might be like a light, glowing with love!

Dear Jesus, may every light I see this Advent remind me of your great love for me and for all people, everywhere. Help me to shine your love to others through my words and actions. Amen

Activities for the First Week of Advent

Light of the World

The word **LIGHT** appears **5** times in this puzzle.

And the word **EARTH** appears **3** times.

L I G H T H E S R
I O D S G M B H E
G L K N S Y L T A
H U I R P D I R R
T R G G R P G A T
D F T H H E H E H
R U A T Y T T R L
A T H G I L E R C
G R B E A R T H D

Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has
taken place, which the Lord
has made known to us.

—Luke 2:15



Count the candles at church.

How many did you see? _____

How many candles are

in your home? _____

Where else have you seen a candle?

What Do You See?

Design a Christmas light display that features Jesus, the Light of the World!



Light of the World

Coloring Sheet for the First Week of Advent



**Color the candles of
this Advent wreath.**

**The candles
help us count the weeks
until Jesus' birthday!**



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. Isaiah 9:2