

YEAR

6

UNIT C

ADVENT

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will be given opportunities to develop their knowledge and understand of the two parts of the Season of Advent. A time to prepare for Christ to come again and a time to prepare to celebrate his birth at Christmas. Through some Parables of Jesus and some of the prayers and hymns of the Church they will explore these themes.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on a lot of previous work in Year 4 and in Year 5 when the two comings of Christ were explored.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the customs and traditions of the Church for the Season of Advent
- some knowledge of Scripture that is used by the Church during Advent.

SKILLS

Writing skills, ICT skills, discussion, researching information, group work.

VOCABULARY

Parable, Advent, second coming, watch, pray, stay awake, Emmanuel, Rod of Jesse.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that there are two parts to the Season of Advent. They will understand some reasons why it is important for Christians to prepare for Christ to come again. They will be able to write a modern parable and parts of a hymn about the coming of Christ into the world.

A.T.1 A.T.2

4a 4a
4b 4b
4c

Less able children will know that advent is a season of preparation for Christmas and a time of preparation for Christ to come again. They will recall some teaching of Jesus about preparing and write some simple texts about the coming of Christ.

3a 3a
3b 3c

More able children will have a greater understanding of the meaning of some Old Testament images that have been used to describe the coming of Christ into the world. They will understand that the second coming of Christ is at a time that Christians do not know and that this keeps them watchful and ready for this time.

5a 5a
5c 5b
5c 5c
5d

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C4 The Church's celebration of significant events in the life of Christ: Advent

C12 A variety of prayers and prayer forms, formal and informal used for community and personal prayer.

R3 Hear about and explore the Bible.

- Revise with the children all that they can remember about the Season of Advent.
- Explain to the children that Advent has two major parts to it. The first part is about preparing for the second coming of Christ and the second part is about preparing to celebrate his birth at Christmas.
- Read the two prefaces for the Season of Advent from the Sacramentary.
- Highlight different things that they tell us about the Season of Advent. Make a list of key words and phrases.
- Read the opening prayers of the Mass for each of the four Sundays of Advent. What message do they give about the Season of Advent?
- Use ICT skills to design posters to advertise around the school the message of the Season of Advent. What slogans could you use to describe the season?
- Look at the words of the preface and the opening prayers again. Consider some of the things that Christians should do during Advent to show that they are waiting for Christ to come again.
- Make your own version of these prayers to be used in collective worship during the season.

- Explain to the children that some of the Parables of Jesus are concerned with watching. These have been used by the Church to help people think about the second coming of Christ.
- Read The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids and The Parable of the Servant Waiting for the Master to Return.
- What was the major difference between the two sets of bridesmaids? Why do you think some were not ready to greet the bridegroom? Who do you think the bridegroom in the parable might be?
- Write a report of this wedding for a magazine. Explain the difference between the two sets of bridesmaids. Think of lots of different adjectives to describe them.
- What is the message of Jesus in this parable?
- After reading the Parable of the Servant Waiting for the Master to Return think about the qualities of a good servant. Brainstorm ideas and create a "word bank".
- Explain to the children that "servant" is a title that is often given to Christians. If we are to be good servants, what are some of the actions we should be doing?
- Create a short summary of these parables to be shared with younger children in the school.
- If Jesus were here today telling people to prepare for his coming, what images do you think he would use to describe the people who were preparing and those who were failing to do so?
- Write a modern day parable about preparing for Christ to come.
- From all that you have learnt about preparing for the coming of Christ, what actions do you think are necessary on the part of Christians?
- Create a "Preparation Recipe" to include some of the things you would be expecting people to do to prepare for Christ to come again.

- Revise previous work from Year Four and Year Five about the Old Testament figures who waited for the Christ to come.
- Recall customs associated with the Jesse Tree and some references to the coming of the Messiah.
- Introduce the children to the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."
- Explain that this is an ancient Christian hymn that the Church uses in its evening prayer during the last week of Advent. It serves to remind us of the people who waited for the first coming of Christ long ago. The Church uses this hymn to prepare to celebrate Christmas and remember his first coming.
- Read through the hymn together and identify the different titles that are given to the person who is to come. These should include: Emmanuel, Rod of Jesse, Key of David and Lord of Might.
- Learn the hymn to sing during collective worship.
- Discuss the meaning of each verse of the hymn. What does it mean and who is it referring to? How do you know?
- Using Bibles or Biblical CD-ROM find Old Testament references for Emmanuel, Shoot of Jesse and the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.
- What do these references tell you about the one who is to come?
- From what you have learnt create a class poem or hymn using the words "O Come O Come" at the beginning of each verse. Think of the things you might want to say about the coming of Jesus in each verse. You might use the same titles given in the hymn or alternative titles from what you already know about Jesus. These might include "Light of the World, Bread of Life, Saviour, Lord, Son of God."

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C4 Of the customs and traditions of major liturgical feasts and seasons.

- Know that Advent is a season of preparation for the second coming of Christ and a season of preparation for celebrating his birth at Christmas.
- Understand that this season demands some preparation from the followers of Christ.
- Be able to discuss the words of the Church's prayers for Advent and write their own prayers for the season.

C12 Of some traditional prayers; of the variety of forms of prayer in the Church.

- Know that some of the Parables of Jesus are about watching and preparing.
- Understand that these can help us think about preparing for Christ to come again.
- Be able to summarise and retell these parables for people today.

R3 Of how to find their way around the Bible.

- Know some Scripture quotations about the coming of Christ.
- Know that in the second part of Advent the Church prepares to celebrate the first coming of Christ.
- Be able to discuss and write a hymn or song about the coming of Christ.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Ask the children to look at the words of the Memorial Acclamations for the Season of Lent. What do they tell us about the coming of Christ?

Display prayers in class to highlight their importance.

Find out about some Jewish wedding customs at the time of Jesus.

Use ICT to design a poster version of the hymn using different colours for the different verses. You might also include some clip art of Advent symbols that the children should be familiar with by the end of Year Six.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt 25: 1-13 – The Parable of the Bridesmaids

Lk. 12: 35-40 – The Parable of the Servant Waiting for The Master to Return

Micah 5: 1 – From the City of David He Will Come

Isaiah 7: 3-5 – Emmanuel

Exodus 24: 9-15 – Moses Climbs the Mountain of The Lord

OTHER LINKS

Drama Links: There are lots of opportunities to explore the Parables of Jesus in this unit through role-play.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use the words of “O Come O Come Emmanuel” as a class prayer and a hymn for the Season of Advent.
- Provide the children with moments of quiet prayer and reflection at the end of each day to think about the future coming of Christ and what we must do to prepare for it.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?