

# Church at Home

## Advent Sunday

29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Activities for the whole family

#### Mark 13:24-37



1. Read through today's story in your Bible at home or find it [here](#)
2. [Here is a reflective version of today's story](#) with wooden figures and wondering questions for the whole family
3. Here is a lively Advent song : [Lord Jesus, come](#)
4. **Thinking about the story together:**

In today's story Jesus sounds like one of the Old Testament prophets predicting the end of the world. In fact he quotes from the prophet Isaiah and also uses imagery that is found in the book of the prophet Daniel. Prophets are people who come close to God and God comes close to them: they know what God is saying. They tell us to 'listen up, look ahead, and look out'. Jesus was asking his followers to be on the look out too...because Jesus could come back any time and his final return at the end of time might be just as much a surprise as when he came as a baby in manger in Bethlehem - no one had expected that! These are almost Jesus's last words to his disciples before his death, and his most important message was 'look out for God' and 'stay alert' because he doesn't want them or any of us to miss out on meeting with God every single day! Three times he tells them to 'keep watch'! This is the message of Advent.

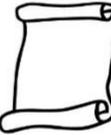
- **I wonder what will help you keep watch for God this week?**
  - **I wonder whether God might turn up in unexpected places and people you come across this week?**
  - **I wonder when you last felt that God had come close to you?**
  - **I wonder how you will know that God has come close to you this week?**
5. **Visual aid:** an Advent candle with markings for the days of December down the side or maybe you can [make your own Advent Crown](#) to light over the next 4 Sundays?
  6. **A special Advent prayer** that comes from Africa:

*Oh you, who are our great chief,  
light a candle in my heart  
that I may see all that is within  
and sweep the rubbish from your dwelling place*

7. Watch out for **the Christmas Trail** around Abridge in December. There will be 20 boards in gardens and windows that tell the story of Christmas. Can you find the word linked to the picture from each board that goes into the story on the trail sheet available soon from the churches and through Lambourne school?

8. **An Advent calendar** countdown through December: print off this page, colour and decorate the pictures, and then cover each one with small post-it notes so that you can peel off one at a time each day to help you 'keep watch' and be ready for the Mystery of Christmas. Look up the Bible verse for each day as a family.

## Coloring Scripture Advent Calendar

1 LUKE 1:26 	2 LUKE 1:30 	3 LUKE 1:31 	4 LUKE 1:32 
5 LUKE 1:38 	6 LUKE 2:1 	7 LUKE 2:3 	8 LUKE 2:4-5 
9 LUKE 2:6 	10 LUKE 2:7 	11 LUKE 2:8 	12 LUKE 2:9 
13 LUKE 2:10 	14 LUKE 2:11 	15 LUKE 2:12 	16 LUKE 2:13-14 
17 LUKE 2:16-17 	18 LUKE 2:20 	19 MATTHEW 2:1 	20 MATTHEW 2:10 
21 MATTHEW 2:11 	22 MATTHEW 2:11 	23 ISAIAH 9:6 	24 JOHN 3:16 
2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 			