

ADVENT
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Thought for the day

We are to wake up and make sure we stay ready for the second coming.

Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Talk to your child[ren]

Advent: Explain that today is the first Sunday in Advent, and Advent means 'coming'. As you will hear when Diana talks later in the service, we are getting ready for Jesus' coming, both remembering him being born at Christmas, and also getting ready for when he comes again in glory. To be ready we need to be watchful and alert.

How we think about Christmas: As Christians we will sometimes find that we are living a different way from those around us, but that is because we are following our leader, Jesus, and living his way. That's the best way for us, and the only way to make sure we are ready and don't miss any important instructions, even though it may mean living differently from other people sometimes.

Talking about the Gospel together: When Jesus had been walking around on earth, teaching, healing and listening to people, he told them a little bit about what would happen at the end of time, so that they, and those who came after them, would be ready for it.

Look together at the Gospel for today, displaying these signs or pictures as you go along:

Activities

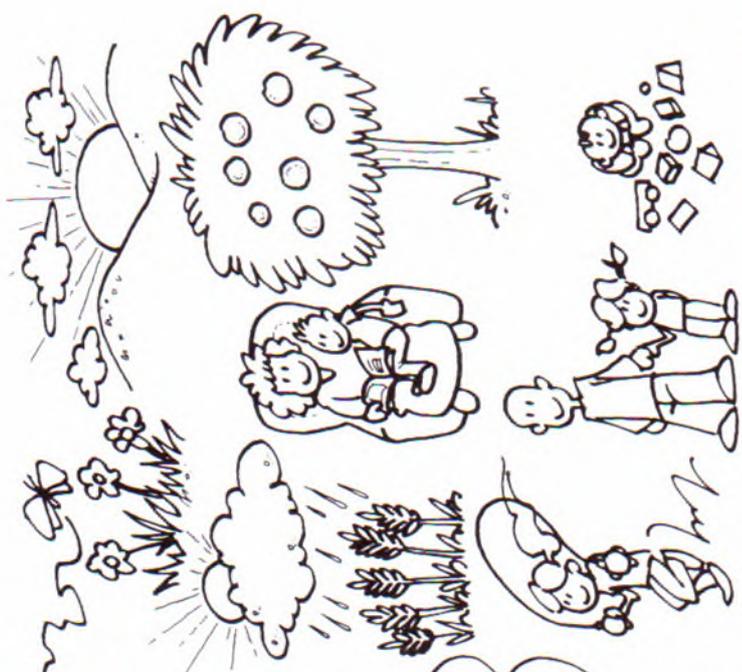
If you have some magnifying glasses, the children can focus on things and see them in more detail. They can draw what they see on the sheet. There are also some line drawings on the sheet to look out for - which show God at work.

The first of the Advent candles will also be lit today, and the children can make the Advent calendar shown on the sheet.

Praying together:

Lord, help us to see
the signs of your love today
in the world around us
and in the people we meet
Train us to be ready to see you
and recognise you
when you come in glory. Amen.

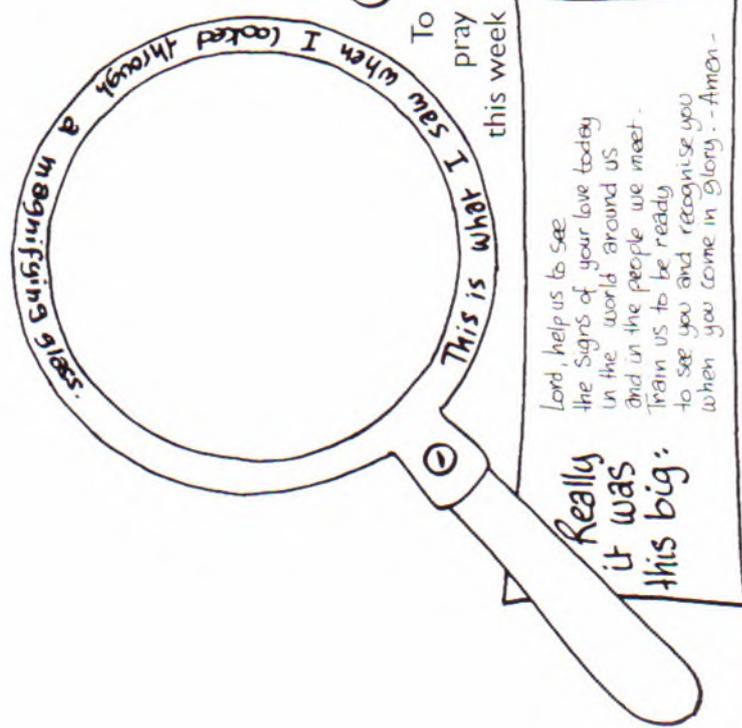
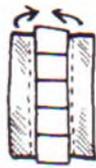




Can you spot God at work?

How to make an ADVENT CALENDAR

1. Cut out the calendar and colour the first picture
2. Fold a length of coloured sugar paper round the calendar like this, sticking a to b
3. Each week pull the calendar further out of it's 'sleeve'



Really it was this big:

To pray this week

Lord, help us to see the signs of your love today in the world around us and in the people we meet. Train us to be ready to see you and recognise you when you come in glory. - Amen -

