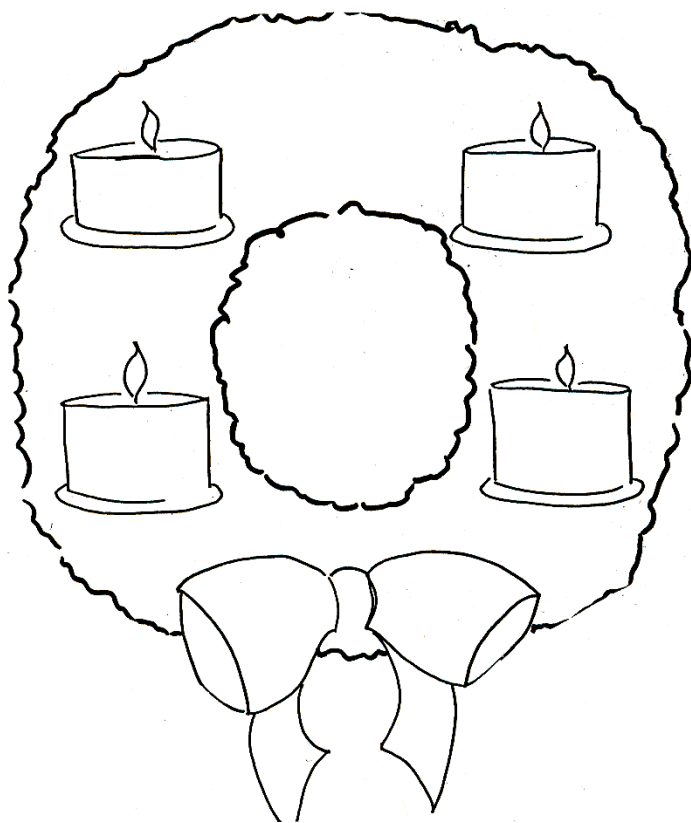


ADVENT WREATH

Everyone in the family can be involved in making an Advent Wreath for your home. Explain the symbolism of each part. Decide how each person will participate in preparing the wreath and in daily or weekly family devotions. The first time you gather to pray around the wreath, have some review the meaning of each part.

Circular Shape

The Advent wreath is a circle. We cannot find the end or the beginning of a circle. The circular Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus came to give us a life that will never end, eternal life with God in heaven.



Make an Advent Wreath

You can make an advent wreath for each child of your group

Materials needed:

- 1) One small paper plate
- 2) One donut for each
- 3) Four birthday candles three purple and one pink
- 4) A small green doilet

How to prepare it:

Place the donut in the paper plate over doilet. Open the holes for the candles on the donut.

Spray it to preserve it. When they are dry, place the candle on the donut and decorate it with a ribbon.

Evergreen Branches

The evergreen branches used to make the circle do not change color as do the leaves on other kinds of trees. The evergreens in the Advent wreath remind us that God never changes: God always has loved us and always will.

Candles

There are four candles on the Advent wreath, one for each week in Advent. They remind us that the Jewish people waited a long time for the Savior to come. The burning candles remind us that Christ, the Light of the World, brightness the darkness around us. Each week we light one more candle, a sign that the more we let Christ into our lives, the brighter our lives will be.

Opening Prayer

O God, bless this Advent wreath. May it help us prepare to welcome Jesus, your Son, into our lives, letting the light of his love shine through us. Amen.

Week 1 (*Light 1 candle*) Come to us, Lord Jesus. Warm our hearts with your love. Help us to prepare for your coming. Help us to see the good things we can do. Help us to see the good things others do. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

Week 2 (*Light 2 candles*) We believe in you Lord. We know that you can help us to love each other more. You are our light. Come Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

Week 3 (*Light 3 candles*) Jesus, we want your coming to make a difference in how we live and love. Open our hearts to hear you telling us how we can bring peace and joy to others. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

Week 4 (*Light 4 candles*) Quiet the worries and fears in our hearts, Lord. Give us your peace. Thank you for the life you share with us. Help us to share that life with others. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)