

Shepherds

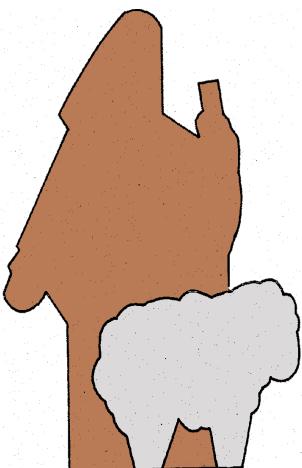
Light a candle and remember the presence of God is with you.

Lay out the dark purple felt and road on top.



Come close to this story that leads us through a special journey called Advent.

Advent is the church season of getting ready for when Jesus will be born. There are many stories and people that prepare us to meet Jesus. I wonder who we get to meet in today's story?



Place Isaiah, Elizabeth, Mary & Joseph, and the shepherds on the road (see below).

Today we get to meet some shepherds. Shepherds are people who spend a lot of time watching, nurturing, and keeping sheep safe when they are outside of their sheepfolds. Shepherds do not have a lot of money and often sleep outside with the sheep.



One night, the shepherds near Bethlehem were awakened by an angel saying, "Do not be afraid! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people!" Many other angels joined in the singing, and the shepherds then went to Bethlehem to find the special child the angels sang about.

The fourth candle of Advent represents LOVE.

We will place this candle on our wreath and remember the LOVE a shepherd has for his sheep.



The third candle of Advent represents JOY.

We will place this candle on our wreath and remember the JOY of expecting God's special son, Jesus.

The second candle of Advent represents PEACE.

We will place this candle on our wreath and remember the PEACE Elizabeth felt when she comforted Mary as they both prepared for special sons.

The first candle of Advent represents HOPE.

We will place this candle on our wreath and remember the HOPE Isaiah provided for the people in his time, in Jesus' time, and in our time.

Wondering with God's Story

I wonder...

- ...how the shepherds felt?
- ...how it felt to be visited by an angel?
- ...what will happen when the shepherds find Jesus?
- ...if you have seen anything mysterious?

Working with God's Story

1. Have each person retell the story without reading the words.
Just use items.
2. Find the story in your Bible and highlight it. You can also look in a Storybook Bible or online.
3. Ask the wondering questions more than once. Dinner? Car? Bedtime?

Check the "Weekly Faith FITness Plan" card.

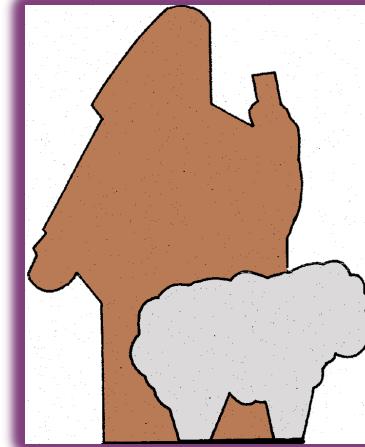


Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe

Pictures: Worship Woodworks, worshipwoodworks.com

Shepherds

Advent Week Four: LOVE



Luke 2:8-11 (Common English Version)

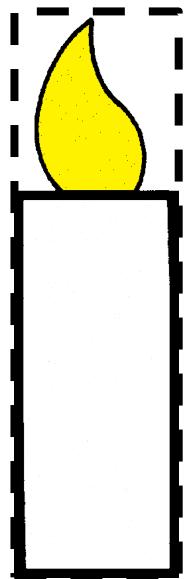
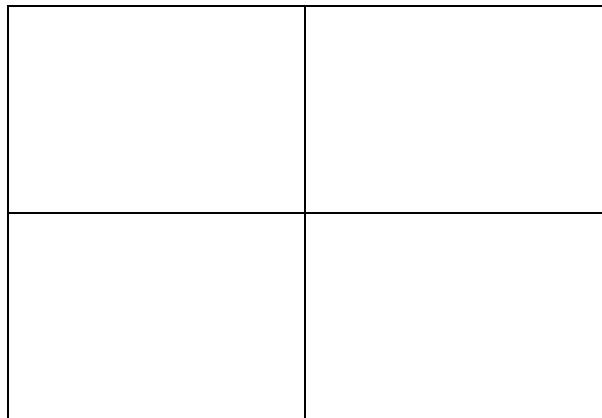
That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord."



Ministries Across Generations
docfamiliesandchildren.org
Disciples Home Missions
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Draw What Gives Your Family Love



1. Color this candle purple (or dark blue).
2. Write the word “LOVE” on it and add it to your wreath.

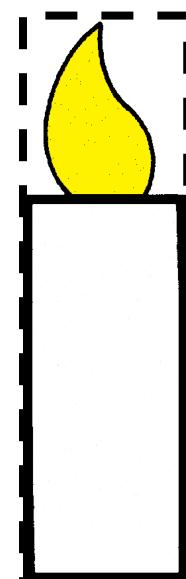
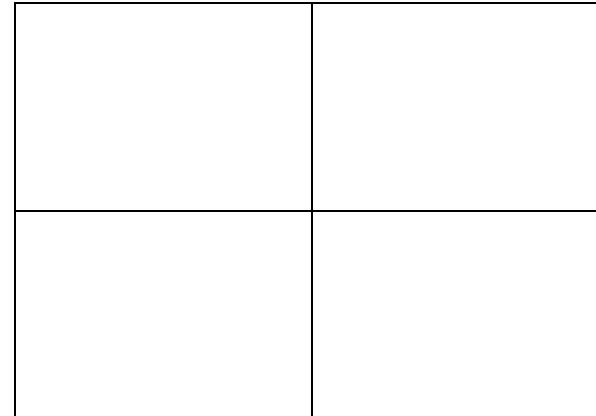
Family Prayer

There are so many ways to pray. This week’s prayer challenge is to write a family prayer that shares with God about a time when you felt great love.

I/We feel loved when...

Amen.

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