

How the Church Tells Time

*Light a candle and remember the presence of God is with you.
Cut out the church calendar.*

Come close to this story.

Over the next few weeks we will be going through three special seasons of the church. We will prepare during the season of Advent. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus during Christmas, and we will finish with another season called Epiphany.

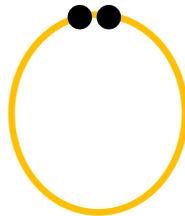
All of these seasons are part of how the church tells time. There are *all kinds* of ways to tell time.



Sometimes people tell time by making a straight line with a beginning, a middle, and an end.

The church can tell time by making a circle.

A circle shows us that a beginning and an end are close to each other. When something ends, something new must begin.



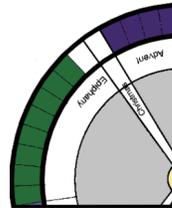
You have a special puzzle that helps us understand how the church tells time.

The church uses colors to help us remember the season. The first season starts around Thanksgiving. Can you find the four connected **purple** squares and place them in front of you to begin making our circle?

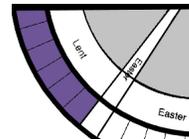
Prior to story, cut out the pieces.

These four squares represent the four Sundays of Advent; the time when we prepare to meet the newborn Jesus.

December 25th, the beginning of Christmas, is next. It is represented by a white square. Christmas is almost 2 weeks! Therefore, another white square goes next to the first one.



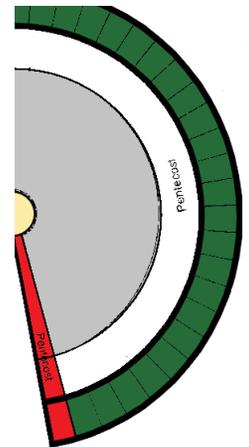
Now we have Advent, Christmas, and next we should place the short **green** squares. These weeks are called Epiphany.



Once Epiphany ends, we prepare ourselves for the season of Lent. Lent is the 6 weeks when we prepare for Easter. Seasons of preparation are usually **dark purple** or **blue**. Can you place the 6 weeks of Lent in the circle next to Epiphany?

Easter comes next! Easter, like Christmas, is celebrated with white. Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection.

We have two circle pieces left. The one **red** piece goes after Easter. It is the day we celebrate the season of Pentecost. We sometimes call this day the birthday of the church. It is another place where an end meets a beginning.



The last section of **green** moves us through the summer and back to Advent. The circle is complete with many endings and beginnings to help us learn more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Wondering with God's Story

I wonder...

- ... what the most important part of this calendar is?
- ... how we tell time?
- ... how the church tells time?
- ... where you are in this circle?

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.

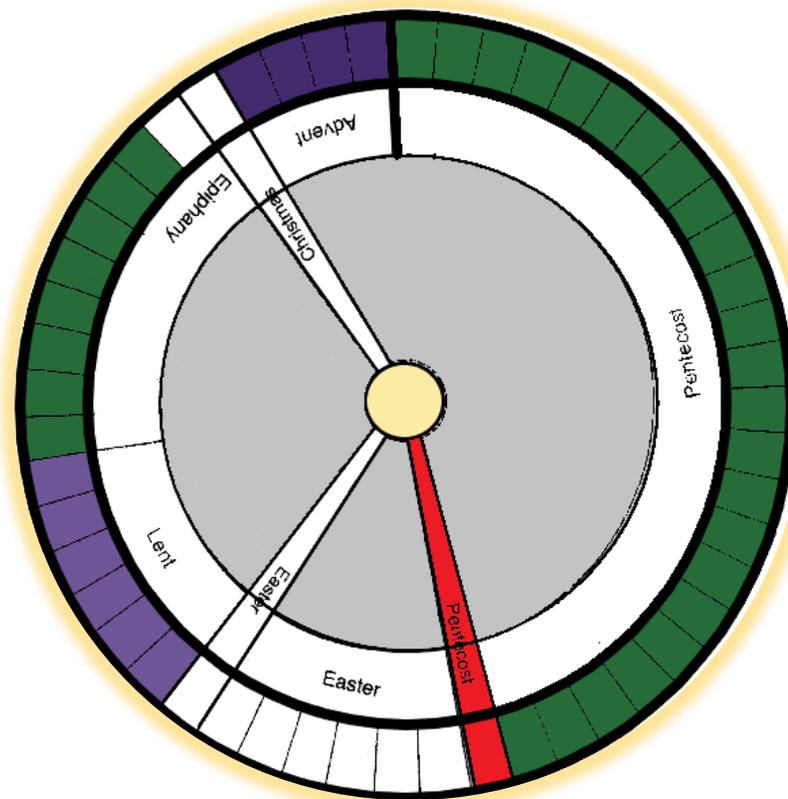


Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe

Pictures: Worship Woodworks, worshipwoodworks.com

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Tells Time



Ecclesiastes 3:3 (Common English Version)

Everything on earth has its own time
and its own season.



Ministries Across Generations
docfamiliesandchildren.org

Disciples Home Missions
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



