

Sunday School Lesson & Craft for the First Sunday in Advent - November 28, 2021

How do you use an Advent Wreath?

When you use an Advent wreath, you light one candle per Sunday on the four Sundays preceding Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent this year is on November 28th. You start by lighting one candle on the first Sunday and then an additional candle is lit on each subsequent Sunday until, by the last Sunday of Advent, all four candles are lit:

- The first Sunday of Advent, you light a purple or blue candle.
- On the second Sunday, you light two purple or blue candles.
- The third Sunday, you light 2 purple or blue candles and the pink or another blue candle.
- And on the fourth Sunday, you light 2 purple or blue candles, the pink or another blue candle, and then you finish off by lighting the final purple or blue candle.

If you decide to light the candles through the week, be sure to light the same candles Monday through Saturday that you lit on the preceding Sunday.

The symbolism of the Advent Wreath:

The evergreen branches remind us of God's unchanging love for us and the circle represents the eternity of God. The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize hope, love, joy, and peace.

Some denominations use three purple candles and one pink, some use three blue and one pink candle, others use four blue candles. So it's your choice to choose the colors you'd like to use.

While the first purple or blue candle symbolizes **hope** it is often called the **Prophecy Candle** in remembrance of the prophet Isaiah who foretold Christ's coming. If you want to read scripture to accompany the candle lighting, you can read any of these verses... Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:2.

The second purple or blue candle symbolizes **love** and is called the **Bethlehem Candle** and represents the manger. Supplemental scripture readings are Luke 2:12, Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:4-6.

The pink or another blue candle symbolizes **joy** and represents the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival. It is referred to as the **Shepherd's Candle** to reflect the joy the shepherds experienced when they received the good news about Christ's birth. Supplemental scripture readings are Luke 2:8-11, Isaiah 40:11.

The last purple or blue candle represents **peace** and is called the **Angel's Candle** reminding us that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace. Supplemental scripture reading are Luke 2:13-14, Luke 1:30-33

Advent Wreath Family Craft

Materials Needed:

- a small artificial greens wreath
- 4 LED votive candles
- pink and purple or blue ribbon
- scissors
- hot glue gun or tacky glue (optional)
- plate large enough to set wreath on (optional)
- decorations (optional)



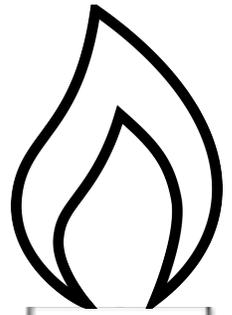
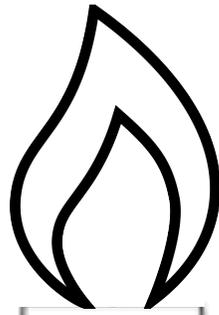
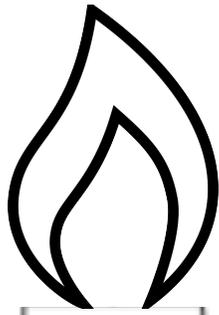
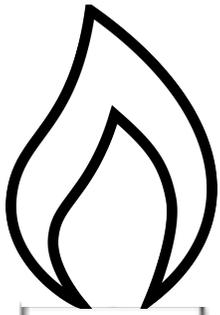
Directions:

1. Set your wreath laying down by itself or put it on a plate.
2. Cut a length of ribbon to wrap around each votive or make a bow. Secure to each candle with glue.
3. Continue wrapping each votive in ribbon, creating 3 purple or blue candles and 1 pink candle, or four blue.
4. You can now start applying the candles to the wreath. Place a dime-sized amount of glue under the candles BUT NOT OVER THE ON/OFF SWITCH. You need to be able to access this. Just apply glue to the opposite end. Then, press them to the wreath. Hold in place firmly until they have attached, or put it on the plate and just set candles on the plate inside the wreath. Add holly, bows, garland, etc. (optional)
5. Now your wreath is ready to light each Sunday before Christmas.

NOTE:

For children, they can make a paper Advent Wreath...color & cut and attach the 2 strips together to make a circle. Cut out candles keeping bottom plain piece on for attaching to circle. Glue or tape the 4 candles around the inside of the circle. Bend the wicks back behind the candles. Turn each wick up every Sunday starting with Hope, then Love, then Joy, last add peace.





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