

Weekly Faith Formation Update

December 7- 11, 2020

Advent Journey Spirals

This craft explores the idea of a journey towards the birth of Jesus, echoing the journey that Mary and Joseph take to Bethlehem and our own waiting for Jesus to come again.

Supplies: air drying clay, small candles (Christingle candles are ideal!)

Steps:

- Roll the clay into a long, thick sausage shape and slightly flatten out the top.
- Make a spiral with the clay.
- Take your candle and, starting at the center of the spiral, make 25 indentations deep enough to let the candle stand up securely.
- Leave the spiral to dry.

Every day during Advent move the candle one place along the spiral and light it, ending at the center on Christmas day.

Pray: Every day, as you move the candle on a space, pray for a person or a place you know going through dark and hard times. Pray that they will know light in their darkness as Christmas approaches

The Sparkle Box: Christmas Morning Tradition

Someone introduced me to this book this year and I simply love it and am sharing the resource page that accompany it. The book is in the BCM Lending Library for you to borrow, or can be [purchased here](#). Once you get the book, use it as a way to incorporate a new tradition this Christmas. While you move through the book, focus on the topics below with your children.

There are many great ways to make choosing a gift for Jesus meaningful for children!



Discuss the different kinds of needs there are in the world.

- Talking about charities, service organizations and needs in your community is a great place to start.
- NetworkforGood.org is a great resource to explore together with your child. It lists over one million charities registered in the United States.
- You may want to think about issues you want to educate your children about and use Network for Good and its accompanying links as a resource.
- It's always a good idea to review information before sharing it with your child to make sure it's age-appropriate.

Explore issues or concerns that touch your child's heart.

- Does your child have a heart for animals? God loves His creatures and there are many charities that help take care of them.

- Is your child an avid recycler? Look for charities that protect the Earth God made.
- Does your child worry about children who are abused? Teach them they can make a difference by supporting a child advocate charity.
- Most children can relate to issues surrounding basic needs like food, clothing and shelter. If your child hasn't shown empathy for a specific cause, charities that support basic needs are a great place to start.

Encourage them to contribute their own money toward Jesus' gift.

- Consider making a chore chart that lists special chores they can do to earn money they can use to buy a gift for Jesus.
- Consider matching their contribution.
- Some children like the feeling of buying a gift "all by themselves." Help them find things they can afford to buy. Like Sam in The Sparkle Box, they can purchase a pair of mittens.
- Empower children with the message Jesus taught us: We can make a difference. As you discuss ideas with your child, reinforce the beautiful message that Jesus shared – we are the light of the world. We are meant to shine His love through the things we do for each other.

For children who are not able to read yet, you can help them glue or tape a picture that represents their gift to Jesus on a slip of paper and put it in The Sparkle Box. On Christmas morning, when the slips of paper are read to Jesus, they will be able to participate in sharing their gift!

Present your gifts to Jesus!

This is a beautiful moment! The moment that changes everything! Don't miss it! On Christmas morning, before any other gifts are unwrapped, have your children open their gifts to Jesus and read them to Him. It's never about earning love... it's about expressing pure love for Him. It is a true moment of worshipping Jesus with a gift chosen for Him on this special day!

Single, married, in any stage of life, with or without children at home, taking the time to give a gift to the greatest gift of all is a humbling, beautiful, heartfelt moment of JOY!

[Click here](#) to view coloring pages and other resources to help with your gifts to Jesus!