

Candle Liturgy Week One - Hope

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

11/28/21

Listen to the podcast and then use these questions / activities to engage further with the material. Our hope is that you'll gather around a table once a week to celebrate and reflect on the meaning of Advent.

Kid Questions

•Advent is the time right before Christmas when we remember that the world waited so long for Jesus to come to save them. When have you had to wait for something a long time and what was it like?

•Now, we are waiting for Jesus to return and make all things new. Jesus is already at work doing that, but it's not yet complete. When Jesus returns EVERYTHING will be made new. There won't be any more tears, no more pain, no violence, no hunger... While we wait for Jesus's return, I wonder how we can be part of this work in the world?

Pretend Play

Supplies:

- Dolls/animals (or family members!)
- Play doctor kit
- Play kitchen
- Other ideas: play tools, vet kit, doll clothes/diapers

Instructions:

- You will take care of your dolls and animals (or family members!) with toys like a doctor kit, play kitchen, or other play items
- This is an example of how we can be part of God's work in the world - helping feed people who are hungry, or taking care of people who are hurt.

For Everyone

Did you catch this important line in the podcast, "Hope is the ability to be honest about where we are, and yet confident of what is to come." Take a moment to be honest about how things are right now in your life. What things are a struggle? What things are you anxious about? What things are going well? What does active hope look like in the midst of those things?

Dive Deeper

To live with hope means, at least in part, to anticipate God's new creation in the way we live right now. Reflect on what this might mean for your relationships with friends and family, how you spend your time, with money that you give.

Prayer of Hope

Faithful God, you have kept promises through the ages and acted on behalf of your people. As we await the fulfill of your promise to make all things new we pray for wisdom and diligence. Give us wisdom to know how we can embody your new creation. Give us diligence so we don't give up too easily. Help us live with active hope, believing your words from the cross, "It is finished." Amen.