



Advent

ACTIVITIES FOR
WHĀNAU AND TAMARIKI

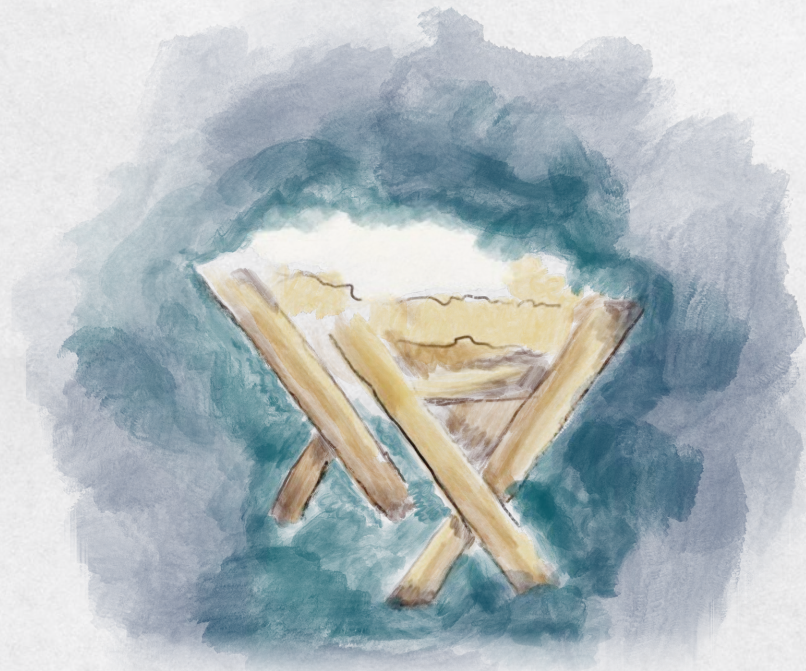


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Tahi Rau Tau 1922-2022
NZBTI | BCNZ
LAIDLAW COLLEGE

Advent

ACTIVITIES FOR WHĀNAU AND TAMARIKI

We have prepared an activity based on a theme for each week of Advent. These may need adjusting to suit the age and stage of those in your whānau but we hope they will offer you an opportunity to engage in this season simply and meaningfully with your tamariki. You might come up with new variations!



An advent karakia:

***As we get ready for Christmas
we remember, loving God, that in
Jesus you came to live with us and
rescue us. Jesus, we think of you
as a little vulnerable baby, and we
remember you know what it is like to
be a child like us.***



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4-5

ACTIVITY: The Great Recycling

Depending on the age and stage of your household you could play the drama game 'unusual uses'. Take random objects and come up with alternative uses for them e.g: the deodorant bottle becomes a microphone, a malfunctioning light saber becomes a giant cake knife... etc)

OR – make a creative piece of recycling together – turn a milk bottle into a simple watering can by punching nail holes in the lid.

**Other ideas can be found online and at sites like pinterest.*

READ

Isaiah 2:1-5 or paraphrase the essential elements from it for your tamariki.

God's instructions and teaching include resolution to conflict, restitution, justice, peace between people, co-operation, and invitation to walk in God's ways.

DISCUSS

What are swords used for? What are plowshares used for? (That could be an interesting piece of exploration but plowshares could be substituted for garden forks or spades). If swords were being turned into farming instruments what would that say about how people are living together? What would a world without fighting look like? What about a city/school/ community/home?

These verses come from an ancient vision for God's long term plan for the world. The work of Jesus invites us to be people of peace, people who co-operate with others, people who live together in God's light and love.

PRAY

God, help us to live in your ways and to be people who bring peace and restoration to the world.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:1-3a

ACTIVITY: The Beautiful Big Picture

Explore the idea of a Jesse Tree – this could involve making symbolic ornaments, or downloading and colouring in a printable set of baubles, or you could read through the promises concerning the Messiah (from right back in Genesis when God promises that from the seed of the woman a person will come who will crush the serpent's head) and draw pictures of those to link how Jesus fits inside the promises of the Old Testament. There are many examples and free printables available online.

READ

Isaiah 11:1-10

DISCUSS

The Bible is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. Sometimes it feels very complicated to fit together and other times the pieces are easy to match. What is interesting is that when a puzzle is finished it is easy to see the whole picture. All the way through the Old Testament, God makes promises about a coming Saviour. When Jesus arrived people were confused. He wasn't the piece of the puzzle they were expecting and yet when they realised he was, the whole picture began to make sense. The prophet Isaiah describes the kind of person Jesus will be. Think about some of the stories of Jesus. Where and how do you see Jesus showing those characteristics?

PRAY

Thank you, Jesus, that you are wise and faithful and you can even bring peace between a lion and a lamb. Be with us today in the things we do and say in our families and communities.



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

And those the Lord has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 35:10

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.

Luke 1:54-55

ACTIVITY: The Coronation of a King

Play some music that evokes a sense of importance, occasion or ceremony. A specific haka or waiata that is only used on formal occasions, a clip of royal music like this:

Royal Fanfare & National Anthem
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAJniMeESOU>
[Aotearoa/NZ](#)

National Anthem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbDf0YG2xnA>
(with NZSL) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dPcj_aC8fk (with Cindy Ruakere) or something from your culture or church setting that stirs up a similar feeling.

Dress a member of the family in a 'royal' or 'rangatira' fashion – drape them in a korowai, make a crown together, create and wear a sei (Samoan flower crown).

READ

Isaiah 35 | Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-55)

Invite your whānau to draw something from one of these passages.

DISCUSS

The music we played and the outfit/crown we put on showed us something or made us think of something – what was that?

We used the music and the korowai/crown/sei as a symbol. When Mary sings her song and Isaiah talks about the coming of God they are describing what will happen when God comes. The symbols we have show us someone is important and special. Jesus is God come to be with us, the most special one of all. The Bible tells us in wonderful language what that will be like – filled with glory, beauty, justice, safety...

Look at what we drew. Why did you choose this thing to draw? How did it make you feel when that part was read and you drew it?

PRAY

God, grow our hearts and minds to imagine your wonderful vision for how the world could be and how it will be. Fill us again with your love.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,

Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary,

and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Matthew 1:12-16

ACTIVITY: A Whakapapa to Fit Into

Make a family tree for your whānau and one for Jesus using the genealogies in the Gospels to help you.

Visit someone with a baby and see how much that baby needs looking after by others. Participate (as appropriate) in looking after the baby.

READ

Matthew 1

DISCUSS

Both Joseph and Mary were in for a huge surprise. Even though they came from the whakapapa/family tree of David they certainly weren't expecting that God's promised Messiah would come from them. It's pretty amazing that God chooses to come, not as a fully grown person, in charge and with power, but as a baby that belonged to a family.

Jesus had parents, cousins, siblings, aunties, and uncles.

God, in Jesus, chose to belong to a family and to need looking after.

PRAY

Thank you, Jesus, that you came as a baby and a family member and you know what it is like to live with people. Help me to love the people I have in my family.

CHRISTMAS WEEK

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:1-2



ACTIVITY: We Will Rejoice

Sing Happy Birthday in as many languages as you can. Celebrate with joy (and cake!). Listen to Handel's version of happy birthday for Jesus 'for unto us' – play it loud! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR0cEOTpYSk> from 26:21- 30:04
Potentially different family members could jump up on different words. Each family member could select a word/phrase – wonderful, counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, for unto us, a child is born – and when the choir sings that they could jump up and dance, mime or sing with the choir.

READ

Isaiah 9:2-7

DISCUSS

In our celebration we experience something of the joy of God and of the whole world (even though we didn't know it!) at the arrival of Jesus. This gift of God is truly the most precious gift we could receive. What would boundless joy be like?

Are there any words we don't know in the Isaiah passage? Discuss what they mean together. Talk about why those things are special or important.

PRAY

Jesus, you are wonderful. Thank you for coming to love us and bring us to friendship with God.

EPIPHANY

For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

Psalm 72:12-14

At Epiphany the church remembers how the magi came to recognise and celebrate the birth of Jesus. It also reminds us that Jesus came to make God known in a very real way in the world. The company of the magi showed how important Jesus was. Jesus' company with us demonstrates who he is and how important we are to God. Could we consider how our presence – in kind silence, in helpful hands, in joyful worship – shows something of God's loving presence in the world?

We are sometimes reminded that we are the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. This is because our hands – (hugging and helping), and our feet – (taking us to others, dancing, moving) can be a physical way of showing God's wonderful love.

ACTIVITY: Go and Do Likewise

Consider your local situation and your personal context – what is something you could do as a family to contribute to another person/whānau/community need?

- Gardening
- Picking up litter
- Planting vegetables or flowers
- Visiting someone lonely
- Baking for a neighbour, friend, stranger, community worker
- Donating money, clothing, stationery for school, toys that are no longer used

READ

Psalm 72:12-14

DISCUSS

All through the Bible we notice that God is especially concerned for people who are overlooked, needy, sad, or lonely. Today we have taken an opportunity to act towards people the way God acts in the world: with generosity, kindness, and grace.

What would it be like if people acted this way? Do you think that God would like us to join in with this kind of mission in the world? How could we do that this year?

PRAY

Thank you God that you are especially concerned with people when they have needs. Help us to partner with you in loving people this year.