



Advent

ACTIVITIES FOR
WHĀNAU AND TAMARIKI



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We have prepared an activity based on the theme of each week of Advent. These may need amending 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!

We would love to see pictures of you and your whānau engaging with Advent – please share them on our Laidlaw Facebook page or tag us on Instagram.



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.

WAITING

WEEK ONE

Psalm 27:13-14

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!



Prep:

- A timer or stopwatch
- Frozen ice cubes or silicone muffin trays with treats hidden in the frozen water (could be a small toy, a sweet, even flowers)
- A hairdryer if you have one.
- You will need to create the ice cubes a day or so before.

Activity:

Turn out the frozen ice cubes/shapes and explore what you can see inside them. Look at them from different angles and get excited about what is inside. Say – “when this defrosts you can have it/play with it/put it in your room/eat it” (depending on what you decide to put in them). Ask “how long do you think it will take?” Use the timer or stop watch and the hairdryer to speed up the process if you want to.

**variation – you can also do this with an ice cream container of water and many items inside and children can play with it in a warm space using spoons to scrape away the ice/make it melt faster.

Reflection:

Sometimes waiting feels difficult, especially when we are waiting for something we really want. God’s people had been promised that a Saviour would come and it was years and years. They read in the Bible the promises God had made and their hearts waited with hope and excitement for that day to come. It has been wonderful to watch you waiting with excitement too and I think God watches us with excitement to discover his love and Jesus, God’s son.

Prayer:

Thank you God that you always keep your promises even when it feels like a long time sometimes. Help us to get our hearts ready to celebrate again the birth of Jesus this Christmas.