Advent Lessons

Week 2- PEACE

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14, John 14:27

Objective: Children will learn about Christ’s coming to earth and the peace He brings.

Materials: wrapped box from Lesson 1, Bibles, LED candles, Advent wreath, supplies for making cards

Preparation:

1. Prepare two signs: *Peaceful, Not Peaceful.* Place the signs on opposite sides of the room.
2. Prepare two signs: *Peace, Not Peace.*
3. Ask a local shelter if your group could provide baby items.
4. Collect items for the Mission Project: basket(s), onesies, sleepers, booties, rattles, blankets, socks, caps, diapers, rattles, teethers, pacifiers, etc.

Procedure:

1. Pass around the wrapped box you prepared for Lesson 1. Invite children to continue guessing the contents of the box. Put the box on a shelf.
2. **Say:** *We’re going to play a game. If I mention something that you think is peaceful, go to the sign that says, “Peaceful.” If I mention something that you don’t think is peaceful, go to the sign that says, “Not Peaceful.”*

Direct children to move to the signs as you say these words: war, pond, hurricane, woods, church, yelling, jackhammer, library.

**Tip**: Have children return to the center of the room after each word.

1. **Ask:** *What was the theme for the first week of Advent?* (hope) *What or who is our hope?*
2. Guide children to find Luke 2:1-14 in their Bibles. **Say:** *Listen as I read Luke 2:1-14. See if you can guess the theme of the second week of Advent. (*Read Luke 2:1-14.) Invite children to guess the theme (peace). **Ask:** *What do you think the angel means by “peace on earth?” Lots of things on earth are not peaceful.* (Allow time for responses.)
3. **Say:** *Let’s find out what peace means to Jesus.* (Ask a volunteer to read John 14:27.) *Jesus gives us inner peace. Let’s play the game again with that in mind.*
4. Hang the *Peace* and *Not Peace* signs on opposite signs of the room. Direct children to move as you say these words: fear, worry, trust in God, hatred, aggravation, inner calm no matter what is happening around you, anger, fighting, confidence in God.
5. **Say:** *If we believe in Jesus, we can have inner peace that only comes from Jesus.* Lead children to gather around the Advent Wreath. Turn on the first and second candles (purple). Turn off the lights. **Say:** *The second Advent candle represents peace.*
6. Pray, thanking God for the peace He gives us.

Mission Project: Baby Baskets

**Say:** *Jesus’ parents didn’t have much to give Him when He was born.* (Read Luke 2:7.) *We have the opportunity to help babies who don’t have all they need.*

Lead children to make cards with a Bible verse, such as: *Children are a gift from the Lord…* (Psalm 127:3) or *Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me…”* (Luke 18:16). Allow children to pack the basket or baskets. Say a prayer for the babies and their families who will receive the baskets.

