

Mission Together

Advent Liturgy & Activity: Week One



This liturgy focuses on the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent, when Jesus tells us to 'Stay Awake! Be ready!'

N.B. For this liturgy we recommend you print a copy of the Mission Together Advent calendar

LITURGY PLAN

Setting the scene

Please refer to our guide: *How to Pray with Children* <https://missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/>

Opening hymn or recorded music

Suggested hymn: Taize - *The Lord is my light* or *Stay awake! Be ready!*

Sign of the cross, lighting of the Advent wreath and opening prayer

Print the opening prayer on page 2 and ask pupils to read.

Bible reading / Gospel drama *adapted for children from NJB*

Print the reading on page 2 and ask pupils to read.

Bible reflection

See page 2. We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

Prayers of intercession

Print the prayers of intercession on page 3 and ask pupils to read.

Mission Together prayer

See to the right.

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: *Stay awake! Be ready!* or
O Come, O come, Emmanuel

Follow up activity

Stay Awake lanterns. See Appendix One.

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Opening Prayer

Whilst the candle is lit we suggest you play or sing *Light the Advent Candle* or something similar. After the first purple candle of the Advent wreath is lit the reader explains:

Reader: The Advent wreath helps us prepare for Christmas. The circular shape has no beginning and no end – it reminds us that life with Jesus is everlasting. The evergreen leaves show God’s love for us never ends. The candlelight reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Reader: Let us pray. God our Father, you sent Jesus to be the light of the world.

Our first candle symbolises hope.

May we always find hope in Jesus, even when we are sad or lonely.

May we bring the light of Christ to the world this Advent.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

Bible reading: From the Gospel of Mark 13:33-37

Reader: ‘Jesus said to his disciples, “Stay awake! Be ready! You do not know when the time will come.

It is like the master of the house who travels abroad. He leaves his home and puts his servants in charge; he orders the doorkeeper to stay awake.

Stay awake! You do not know when the master of the house is coming - evening, midnight, cockcrow, or in the morning.

If he comes suddenly, he must not find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Stay awake!”’

The Gospel of the Lord **R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Bible Reflection

During Advent we prepare for Christmas. We do that by remembering how Jesus came on earth as a baby born in a stable; and we look forward to the time when he will return to us in glory and majesty.

Jesus reminds us that nobody knows when he will come back so we need to be ready for him. Jesus compares himself to a man who travels abroad. The servants do not know when their master will return; that is why Jesus gives a warning to “Stay awake! Be ready!”

Imagine getting ready for an important sports match. What do you need to do?

Pause for answers e.g. pack your kit, clean your boots, train.

What would happen if you didn't get ready?

Pause for answers e.g. you can't play without your kit or boots. If you haven't trained then you won't be fit enough to do your best. You risk letting yourself and your team down.

In the same way, in Advent we prepare for Jesus at Christmas. We have reminders to help us - like the Advent wreath we have just lit and the daily tasks set for us in our Mission Together Advent calendar.

Hold up the Mission Together Advent calendar.

When Jesus tells us to be ready for his return, what do you think he means?

Pause for answers.

He wants us to get our hearts ready. We can do that by doing the things Jesus asks us to do. What are these?

Pause for answers e.g. We can be gentle, forgiving, loving and kind.

Let's think of ways that we can do that this Advent. *Pause for answers.*

One of the ways is to help people who have less than we have. Maybe we can put some coins into our Mission Together Little Red Boxes to help children overseas living in poverty?

We can also pray for ourselves and for one another during Advent. Let's start now with our **prayers of intercession.**



Prayers of Intercession

Reader: The response to our prayer is: **Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We pray that we may stay close to you as we prepare to remember Jesus' coming at Christmas. May we always live in the hope of his promise to return. We pray to the Lord.
R/ Lord, hear us.

Reader: We pray for children near and far who are scared, upset or lonely. May they find hope in your love and friendship. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We pray for children around the world who can't go to school, are homeless, sick, or who are refugees. May they find comfort in you and may we always find ways to help them. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We pray for the children, families and staff in our school. May we always hope in you as we bring the light of Christ into the world. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We end our prayers by saying together the ***Mission Together Prayer.***

**May all children in the world
share love
share friendship and live
in the peace
of God's love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Reader: Let us finish our time in prayer with the sign of the cross.

Closing hymn or recorded music.

Appendix One: Stay Awake!



Inspired by our liturgy's Gospel reading (Mark 13:33-37) this craft activity reinforces the key message: 'Stay Awake! Keep your hearts ready and your goodness shining brightly, lighting the way for others.'

The activity hones fine motor skills, and once finished lanterns can be strung together as a colourful classroom decoration.

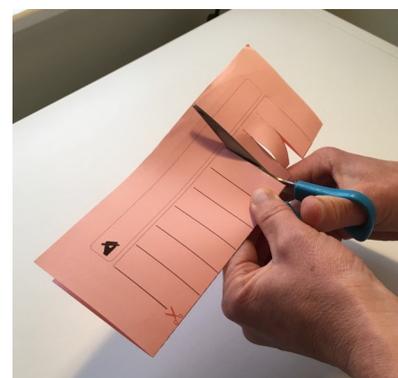
Stay Awake Lamps

1. Provide each pupil with an A4 sheet of paper prepared on Appendix Two. For ease we've drafted the lines that pupils need to fold and cut.
2. Instruct pupils to cut the sheet in two following the solid line. They will now be left with two A5 sheets. They will need both sheets for this activity.
3. Taking the A5 sheet with the grid lines in the rectangular text box, ask pupils to write a way in which they will keep their hearts ready and goodness shining this Advent.
4. After they've written their intention, pupils then cut along the ten solid lines; beginning from the fold and being careful not to cut beyond the lines end point (see picture to the right).
5. When pupils have cut along all the solid lines ask them to unfold the paper and curl the sheet so that the two ends meet, forming a lantern shape. Pupils then must fasten the two ends together with sticky tape or a stapler.
6. Ask pupils to set their lantern aside and return to the remaining A5 sheet.
7. Ask pupils to colour the light bulb (if the card on which template is printed is dark in colour, pupils may need to cover the bulb shape with yellow paper), then write their name inside the bulb. After this, they should cut out the entire shape before folding along the dotted line top of the bulb.
8. Pupils then stick the ends of the strip onto their lantern to make a handle. The light bulb should hang inside the lantern.
9. The pupils 'Stay Awake' lanterns are now ready to display!

For this activity pupils will need:

- A copy of Appendix Two on coloured A4 paper. It is preferable that pupils have different coloured sheets.
- Pencils/pens
- Scissors
- Sticky tape or stapler.

During Covid restrictions, it may be necessary for scissors and stapler to be used by staff.



shape. Pupils then must



***Stringing the lanterns together makes an eye-catching festive decoration!
Don't forget to share your photos with us on social media @Missio_UK***

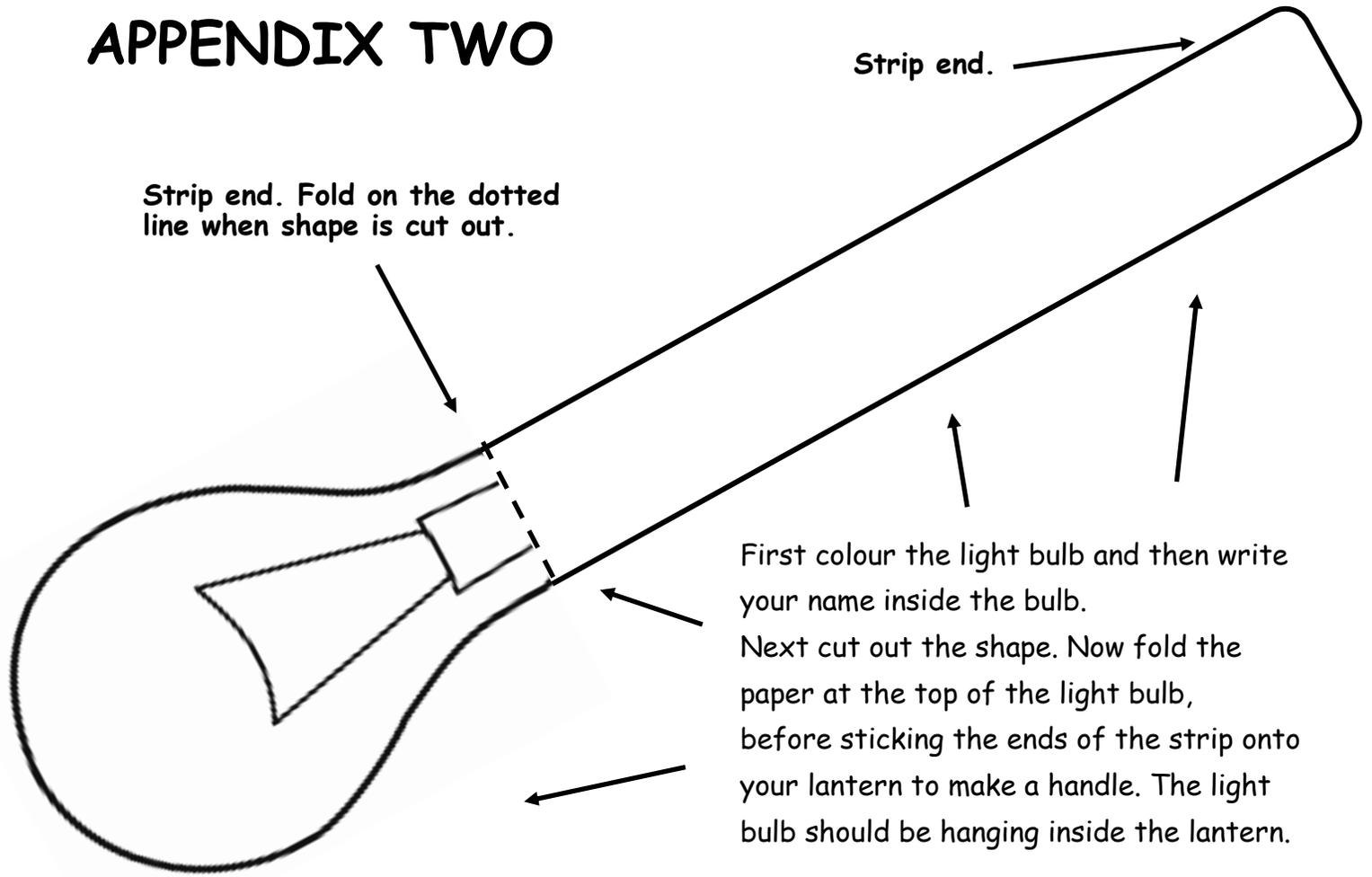
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APPENDIX TWO



Strip end. Fold on the dotted line when shape is cut out.

Strip end.

First colour the light bulb and then write your name inside the bulb.
Next cut out the shape. Now fold the paper at the top of the light bulb, before sticking the ends of the strip onto your lantern to make a handle. The light bulb should be hanging inside the lantern.

