



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of December 11, 2022: Isaiah 42:1-9

Memory Verse

Isaiah 42:6: "I am the LORD, ...I have taken you by the hand and kept you..."

Advent at Home III:

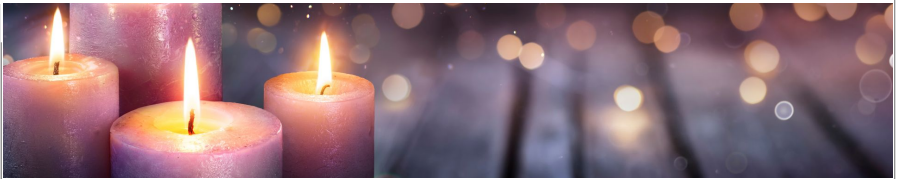
[Light the candles you lit last week]

The candles of hope and peace are lit. May hope and peace burn deep in our hearts, minds, and souls.

[light the next candle]

Today we light the candle of joy! We sing "joy to the world" because even when times are hard, God's Spirit can still bring us joy, and we can spread joy to others. The world needs more joy!

Let us Pray: Come, Lord Jesus, the true joy-giver. Help us to find joy in our hearts, our homes, and our world. When times are hard, help us to be bringers of joy to others, just as you bring joy to us. And may every heart prepare room for you. Amen.



The Story

Isaiah spoke these words when people were very unhappy, frightened because of wars, and violence was happening all around them. People had lost hope. Isaiah told them that the messiah would be coming. Isaiah describes this person as a servant and would be sent from God. The people needed to remember that God was with them and watching over them. Isaiah also said that this person would be a light for all nations, in other words, for the entire world.



This servant will bring justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice. He is like a bruised reed; he will not break. He will be like a candlewick that is burning dimly but will not go out.

Activity:

Light (all ages): *You will need: different light-creating objects (e.g. flashlight, camera flash, light bulb, phone screen, candle, matches) and/or images (which will allow you to be more creative) such as lighthouse, car headlights, traffic light, etc.*

Have a quiz or discussion based around the different objects to see if the children can guess what they are used for and what is the most important thing they create. You can use this as a way to think about the importance of light in the Isaiah passage. As an extension of this, light a candle in a dark room and discuss how even one small light makes a big difference.



This servant will open the eyes of the blind and bring prisoners out from the prisons. Remember how Jesus restored sight to blind men? (Matthew 9:27-31) Isaiah prophesied that the old things will pass and new things are coming.

Theme of the story and family discussion: This passage of the Bible is talking about the servant. Isaiah is prophesying about a messiah who is the servant, the light to all nations. When Jesus was born 700 years later people remembered what Isaiah had said and realized Jesus was that messiah. Isaiah is trying to prepare the community for the coming of this messiah. What do we do, both at home and at church, to prepare for Christmas, both physically and spiritually? What does it mean to serve others? How can Christians be a light to the world?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to fix the broken world. Thank you for sending Jesus to be the light of the world. Shine on us this day and light our path. Show us how to be good. Amen.



Craft

Christmas Cards (all age):

You will need: white cardstock, markers, crayons, colored pencils, Christmas stickers, wrapping paper; orange, red, and yellow finger paint

Cut and fold cardstock to create a card. Invite kids to decorate the outside as a Christmas card. Inside, draw, or have kids draw, a candle stick or 2. Using the finger paint, either separately or mixed, instruct the kids to dip their finger in and then press on top of the candlestick to create the flame.

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