

Lighthouse (P1-P6)

Bible Passages: Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7, 11:1-9, Micah 5:2, Zechariah 9:9

Aim: To Think About How We Get Ready for Christmas

To Chat: The prophets were giving people messages from God to help them get ready for a special day when the saviour would come. God gave, hints and clues, that we find in the Bible passages above. What are they?

What do you do as a family to get ready for Christmas? Why is it a special time of year? How do we remind ourselves of Jesus as we get ready?

To Try: Advent calendars a great way to help us get ready for Christmas and remember Jesus. If you are up for an adventure, Pinterest has many shapes and sizes of advent calendars to make! If you are a little bit less fond of glue and glitter, the additional attachments include a Bible verse to tell the Christmas story, from the prophets through the wise men, with wee pictures for each day in December to have alongside your standard chocolate countdown calendar!

Practicing generosity can help us reflect on God's gift of Jesus to us. One idea that is quite popular this year, is to do a reverse Advent Calendar, placing a non-perishable food item, perhaps something your family really enjoy, into a box each day. The contents can then be donated to any of the local food banks, including the Edinburgh Northwest Foodbank, North Leith Parish Church, South Leith Parish Church or Ebenezer Church.

Youth (P7-S4)

Aim: To think about what people/things we place our hope in and explore how Elijah placed his hope in God, even when the people around him chose not to.

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 18:16-46

To Think About: The things we hope in are where we place our trust. Across history, people have placed their hope in many things: kings and queens, technological inventions, people they look up to, or even themselves. What can we go wrong if we place our hope in these things? Where did Elijah place his trust? How did he demonstrate this to others? How does placing our hope in God look like in 2018? How is it the same as in Elijah's time, how is it different?

To Note: This story ends with the end of a drought and god bringing rain to restore the land and make it fruitful again, but it also includes Elijah commanding the prophets of Baal to be seized and killed. In the book of Deuteronomy, we read this is the consequence of being a false prophet. It is grim and a bit scary and a bit difficult to understand, but it is important to ponder these tensions together as we read scripture.