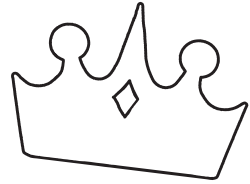


FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT—DAY 1

The Prophets' Candle: The Prophets' Candle reminds us of God's prophets and prophecies that point us to the promise of the coming Christ.



Craft: Cut out and decorate the crown ornament found on page 26.



Scripture: Genesis 3:15

Lesson: Today we begin the glorious celebration of Advent. Advent means 'coming' and we are celebrating the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to live among us. The story of the coming of Christ to redeem His people goes all the way back to the book of Genesis. You remember God's promise to Adam and Eve in the garden, don't you? After they had sinned, God promised that the offspring of the woman would crush the serpent's head. One day a man would be born who would destroy the power of Satan and of sin. How Adam and Eve longed for that day! All through the Old Testament, believers looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one, who would crush the power of sin. Perhaps their child would be the one! We know that God always keeps His promises, for the Bible tells us that all God's promises are "Yes and amen" in Jesus Christ. The celebration of Advent is all about God keeping His promise and sending His Son to save His people from their sins.

Questions:

- When is the first time the Bible promises a redeemer?
- What does God say the offspring of the woman will do?
- What does the Bible say about God's promises?

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:1

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (page 28)



DAY 2

Scripture: Genesis 12:2,3; Genesis 17:1-8

Lesson: Our Heavenly Father is so gracious to give us the Old Testament to show us how all His promises have been fulfilled in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. You remember in yesterday's reading we said that's what Advent is: the celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ to dwell among us. We saw that God promised to send a redeemer way back in Genesis 3. God was revealing to Adam and Eve His covenant of grace. In today's reading we see how God continued to reveal His covenant of grace to Abraham. God told Abraham "I will make you into a great nation...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." The promise was to Abraham and to his seed. The seed of Abraham is Christ Jesus. Through Christ all the peoples on the earth have been blessed. When God speaks of this great nation He means not only the nation of Israel, but also all those who will put their faith in Christ and become children of God. If you have put your faith in Christ, then you are one of Abraham's children and an heir of all God's promises to him!

Questions:

- What are some of the promises God made to Abraham?
- Who is included in the great nation that God promised to Abraham?
- What covenant was God revealing to Adam and Eve and to Abraham?

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:1-2

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (page 28)

Day 3

Scripture: Ruth 4:9-17

Lesson: Does this seem an odd little reading to put in an advent lesson? Dear ones, in the story of Ruth, God gives us an exquisite picture of who the Lord Jesus is. Ruth and Naomi had returned to Israel very poor. They had no way to make money. Their only hope was the custom of the kinsman-redeemer. The closest relative to Naomi's husband, who had died, could buy back his property and could take Ruth to be his wife. And that is just what happened. Boaz, their kinsman, came and redeemed them from their poverty and married Ruth. Their life was restored. What a lovely story! But it is all the more lovely when you see that that is exactly what Jesus has done for us. Just like Naomi and Ruth we are without hope in the world, but Jesus comes as our kinsman-redeemer. He is our kinsman. Remember He is not ashamed to be called our brother. But not only that, on the cross He bought us back; He is also our redeemer. We have a kinsman-redeemer in our Lord. Our elder brother who is also our Savior gives us a new life!

Questions:

- A kinsman is a _____.
- What is a redeemer?
- Jesus is not ashamed to be called our _____.
- Who is Ruth's great-grandson?

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:1-3

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (page 29)