

ADVENT

HIGH SCHOOL



TEENTEXT GRADES 9-12

Go Deep. Be Real. Let Go.

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Editor
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TeenText Grades **HIGH SCHOOL** Advent

Week of	Lectionary Selection
ADVENT 1	Isaiah 2: 1-5 (NRSV)
ADVENT 2	Matthew 3: 1-12 (MSG)
ADVENT 3	Matthew 11: 2-11 (MSG)
ADVENT 4	Matthew 11: 2-11 (MSG)
CHRISTMAS 1	Matthew 2: 13-23 (MSG)



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Each monthly issue of *TeenText* is filled with background about the weekly scriptures, a series of provocative questions that encourage the youth to respond and share, activities centered around the text, and supplemental media which digs deeper into the story by exploring other dimensions through the use of song lyrics, poetry, visual art, and movie clips. For more information contact: info@educationalcenter.org or visit: www.educationalcenter.org



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TEENTEXT Grades 9-12
December 1, 2013
First Sunday of Advent

I. WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Bible
Candle and matches
Paper
Pens, pencils, and/or markers
Computer + web access (for YouTube videos and to enlarge art/images)

II. TODAY'S TEXT: Isaiah 2: 1-5 (NRSV)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In the days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For our of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

III. BACKGROUND

In this first section of the book of Isaiah (chapters 1-6), the prophet, Isaiah son of Amoz, recounts a vision he has of the future of Israel. The vision includes God's dreams for the people of Israel and for the world. It is a vision of harmony, justice, inclusion and peace, centered on the temple of God. In Isaiah's vision, the temple of God is a place in which all people, from all nations, are drawn together. In this created community, peace is found.

This text in Advent: Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love are all represented in this text. The promise of a harmonious future in which people from different ethnic backgrounds, religious traditions, and families can worship together in shared space is certainly a not-yet-realized hope. As we anticipate the birth of Jesus, how might we let the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent, those characteristics that Jesus shows us with his life and ministry, become a reality in our world? How can we participate in the oncoming of Advent hope, peace, joy and love this season?

IV. SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Remember, these are only suggestions. The most effective questions and activities—the ones that help participants connect their story with God's story each week—are

often those that are based on your personal knowledge of the participants and where they are. Listen carefully to their responses; ask follow-up questions that help them reflect on the text and their lives, right now, right where they are.

GO DEEP

(What's happening in the story?)

1. Who is the speaker here? What is he speaking about?
2. How do you understand the phrase "The *word* that Isaiah son of Amoz *saw*"? What does it mean to see a word?
3. What is happening in Isaiah's vision?
4. Are the advent themes evident in this passage? Where is there love, hope, peace, and joy in Isaiah's vision?

BE REAL

(What connections can you make between the story and the world around you?)

1. **Activity:** There is a lot of imagery here. Have half of your group work together to draw a picture of what they imagine Isaiah is describing. Have the other half draw a picture depicting our current world and the world's relationship with God. Compare the two. What stands out the most? How distant is our reality from Isaiah's vision? Where are the advent themes present in this vision?
2. How does your religious tradition understand holy space?
3. Isaiah says that God will judge between the nations. How do we understand judgment in our world today? How do we understand divine judgment today? Who is the judge between nations, for the international community?

LET GO

(Be open to discovering how this story is happening in your own life.)

1. Are there places in the world where you see glimpses of Isaiah's vision in reality? If so, describe them.
2. How are you working to bring love, hope, joy, and peace into the world today?
3. How does the season of Advent serve to remind us of where the community of God is and where we want to be?

V. SUGGESTED LINKS TO OTHER MEDIA RESOURCES

A note about links: when TeenText goes to press all links are live and in working order. Links sometimes move or are renamed. If a link does not work for you try entering the search terms in Google.

Advent is a season rich in sensory experiences. The sights, smells and sounds of the Christmas season surround us. Music is one of the best ways to explore our story through so for this issue of TeenText we have provided musical and artistic selections for the five weeks of Advent. Enjoy!

In this move clip from Elizabeth the Golden Age, Sir Walter Raleigh (played by Clive Owen) describes what hope feels like to him. What does hope feel like to you?

<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/elizabeth-the-golden-age/nothing-but-the-horizon>

Advent Music for week 1:

“Alleluia” from Handel’s Messiah as sung by the Royal Choral Society

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZEtvBJT5c>

Justin Timberlake sings a different version “Hallelujah” :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1LOm69hpR0>

One of our favorites is *Imagine* by John Lennon:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRhg-yO1KN8>

The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1898)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Henry_Ossawa_Tanner_-_The_Annunciation.jpg

Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel and told that she will give birth to Jesus. In the painting below Gabriel is on the left and depicted as a shaft of light. Is this your vision of an angel? As such a young person, how might Mary feel? Seeing her youth in this image, can you begin to identify with Mary as someone who was close to your age? How does this change your experience of Advent this year?

