

ADVENT

RCL YEAR A ~ 5 week study

MIDDLE SCHOOL



TEENTEXT GRADES 6-8

Go Deep. Be Real. Let Go.

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TeenText MIDDLE 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



TEENTEXT GRADES 6-8

Go Deep. Be Real. Let Go.



TEENTEXT *MIDDLE SCHOOL*
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 speaks about peace between nations. What does he say about war? What does it mean to learn war? What does it mean for war to be something we are taught?
4. Are we or are we not teaching war to future generations?

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. What is your vision of hope, joy, love, and peace for the world?
3. How are you working to make that vision a reality?
4. Of the Advent themes (hope, joy, love, and peace), what do you feel is missing the most in our world?

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!



What does “hope” look like? Where do you find it in your life?

In this movie 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? Is it anything like what Raleigh describes?

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

Advent Themes in Music:

“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=yRhq-yO1KN8>

VI. BETWEEN SUNDAYS

The stories we learn from the Bible are not only helpful to us at church, but they also can help us live our lives each day. Consider the following question to see how this week’s text might be challenging them to live differently as they go about their normal routines (school / sports / social events):

A large part of Isaiah’s vision is about peace. Where do you see a need for peace in your community? In your world? How can you be an advocate for peace?