

THE ADVENT OF CHRIST

by Bill Pieper

PURPOSE

To prepare for the Advent of Christ by involving young people in thought-provoking study and meaningful activities.

PREPARATION

Gather paper, pencils, Christmas carol songsheets or albums (see Helpful Resources), and a record player.

Have youth bring Bibles from home.

Make copies of the Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord study sheets:

Read the following, "You have just received a telephone call in which Jesus Christ has informed you that tomorrow night he will be at your home for dinner and you are to prepare the feast."

Have the students list five to 10 things they would have to do to prepare for this visit. Allow a few minutes to discuss these lists within the small groups.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Have the group silently read

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Luke 3:1-18. Why is it necessary to prepare for the Advent or the coming of Christ? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. John says, "Prepare the way of the Lord." b. We have to get into the spirit of Christmas. c. We are threatened with an unquenchable fire. d. It is expected. e. Jesus is coming. 2. Rate yourself on a scale of | <p>one to 10 as to where you are in your preparation for Advent. (One is totally prepared and 10 is absolutely unready.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Share with your group why you do or do not feel prepared. 4. The Christmas season is almost here. Complete this statement: In preparation for the Advent, I will . . . 5. Share your preparation item with your group. |
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OPENING

As the participants arrive, play Christmas carols (tapes or recordings). To open the meeting, sing carols. Then divide into small groups.

Luke 3:1-18 and make one of the following pencil marks by appropriate verses:

- ! = makes you feel good or excited.
- ? = you do not understand.

✓ = worth remembering.
 Have members in the small groups share their verse notations. Invite youth to share their interpretations of those verses that others did not understand.

Hand out the Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord study sheets. Share the thoughts about what it means to prepare for the coming of Christ.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

Gather in a large group and

think of Advent activities to do together. Ideas include: Bake Christmas cookies for shut-ins; carol for shut-ins, hospitals and nursing homes; make decorations for the church; or raise funds to contribute to hunger organizations.

Close by singing carols such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Carols of Christmas, Augsburg, 426 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis, MN 55415.