**Protecting God’s Children**

**Advent Lesson for 3rd Grade**

***Think of a time when you had to wait for something.***

***Maybe it was for your birthday.***

***Maybe it was for a special trip with your family.***

***How did you feel during these times of waiting?***

***Why was it hard to wait?***

***What did you do while you waited?***

Well just like your experiences of waiting, the Jewish people waiting for the Savior.

***Before Jesus was born, the Jewish people had been waiting a long time for God to keep his promise.***

***Do you remember the promise that God made to them?*** (to send them a Savior)

***The people believed that God would keep his promise. What do you think they did while they waited?*** (They got ready for his arrival. They became more and more excited.)

The ways the Israelites prepared for the coming of the Savior was to pray.

***The Jewish people prayed that God would keep his promise to send the Savior.***

***Through prayers and songs, they asked God to help them.***

***Even when the time felt long and they were growing impatient, they never stopped praying.***

This is why we as Christians celebrate Advent as the time when we pray and wait for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

***God kept his promise to send a Savior. Can you tell me whom God sent?*** (his Son, Jesus).

***Advent is our time of waiting. During Advent, we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.***

Distribute  [Jesus Is the Son of God](https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/lpress-craft/files/ocf-files/lesson-plans/advent-gr1-3-StudHndout%20A%20jesus%20Son%20of%20God.pdf). Invite volunteers to read it aloud.

***What promise did God make?*** (to send someone to save us from our sins)

***What kind of Savior did God send?***

***Was he a powerful warrior?*** (No, God sent a baby, his only Son.)

***How did Jesus come into this world?*** (He was born to Mary and raised by Mary and Joseph.)

***Who announced Jesus’ birth?*** (angels)

***When do we celebrate the birth of Jesus?*** (on Christmas)

***Every year, Christians get ready to celebrate Christmas. The word Advent means “coming.” Advent is the four weeks before Christmas when we prepare for Christ’s coming.***

Distribute [Advent Decoder](https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/lpress-craft/files/ocf-files/lesson-plans/advent-gr1-3-StudHndout%20B%20Advent%20Decoder.pdf). Guide the children in completing the handout.

***During Advent, we pray to Jesus to fill our hearts with his love. It’s a time when we try to pray more and to do good deeds. It isn’t always easy. But we can offer our prayers and good deeds as gifts to God.***