

BIBLE STUDY MEDIA

PRE-K – K SUNDAY SCHOOL

HEARTS

A GOSPEL LECTIONARY CURRICULUM

ALIVE

YEAR A

WINTER

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WELCOME TO HEARTS ALIVE

In the line of Christian formation resources for children, the *Hearts Alive* curriculum is something brand-new! We have listened to the desire of churches to have a fully integrated weekly worship experience in which children and adults are engaged in exploring the same scriptural texts. Each lesson in both the Sunday school and Children's church curricula is built on one or more readings taken from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of Bible readings used by churches across denominations and around the world to guide weekly worship. By aligning the lessons of *Hearts Alive* to these common readings, families are able to have cross-generational discussions related to the worship service message, Sunday school, and Children's church teachings.

While *Hearts Alive* is a natural fit for churches in the liturgical tradition that incorporate regular use of the RCL, its appeal is much broader. *Hearts Alive* is evangelical in its interpretation of Scripture and contemporary in its teaching style and life application. By using a sequential approach to Scripture teaching, *Hearts Alive* seeks to help churches train up young disciples in the whole Word of God, emphasizing a high view of scriptural authority and a gospel focus. The weekly age-specific lessons support and even elevate liturgical traditions as well as important observances in the church calendar while using clear and contemporary teaching techniques to present the Word of God in ways that will produce lifelong followers of Christ. *Hearts Alive* is flexible enough to fit any congregation, no matter how large or small, of any Christian denomination.

HEARTS ALIVE IS:

- ▶ Gospel-centered, emphasizing the story of salvation through Jesus Christ in every lesson.
- ▶ Scriptural, teaching the full scope of the Bible over a 3-year span following the RCL.
- ▶ User-friendly, making it easy for teachers and Christian educators to implement.
- ▶ Fun and engaging for children, offering age-appropriate storytelling, crafts, and activities.
- ▶ Family-oriented, providing a Take-Home page so parents and children can apply the lesson with activities throughout the week.
- ▶ Varied, offering both small- and large-group moments so children stay interested and engaged.
- ▶ Cost-effective for both small and large churches, available for quarterly purchase with price adjustments for volume.
- ▶ Downloadable, in a format that is easy to share with a whole team of leaders and volunteers.



What Each Lesson Provides

Each weekly *Hearts Alive* lesson provides two hours of material for children ranging from Pre-K/Kindergarten through Grade 6. The curriculum is divided into two categories: Sunday school and Children's church. These two distinct curricula offer different themes for each week's lesson so that children participating in both programs have fresh, engaging material in each class.

Sunday School Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Sunday school curriculum is designed to be used during the Sunday school or Bible study hour of a church's weekly worship time. It is divided into three separate age groups and perfect for use in classroom-sized group settings. The age divisions are: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6).

Children's Church Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Children's church curriculum offers a weekly church experience tailored just for young followers of Jesus. It is intended for a larger, age-inclusive setting for children from pre-K through grade 5 (ages 4 through 11) designed to help them learn the basics of an adult worship service, including Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. The larger group setting encourages children of varying ages to worship together, mirroring the generational integration of the church. At the close of each lesson, an age-specific breakout time ensures that every child, from the youngest to the oldest, can take part in a follow-up game, craft, or activity that will help them apply the week's lesson to their own lives. Many churches hold Children's church during the first part of the adult worship service. After Children's church concludes, there is time to welcome the children into the adult service for the final portion, often the celebration of Communion/the Eucharist.

How To Use The *Hearts Alive* Curriculum

Hearts Alive follows the 3-year cycle of the RCL. Because liturgical dates vary from year to year, specific dates are not assigned to the lessons. Instead, lessons are numbered and an accompanying online chart identifies which lesson falls on which calendar date for that specific year. In the heading of each lesson, you will find the Lectionary Year, Season, and Week number, plus the associated liturgical day (if applicable) and lectionary reading. This information can help you design your entire congregation's weekly worship experience around shared themes all year, providing a fresh unity to your congregation's spiritual focus and growth.

The first page of each Sunday school and Children's church lesson includes Lesson Title, Key Scripture, Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Lesson Overview. The Big Idea summarizes in one or two sentences the main point you want the children to learn from that day's lesson. The Lesson Overview provides a more in-depth explanation of the key points of the lesson.



Next, there is a Lesson Outline chart to help you stay organized. It tells you what happens when. On this chart, you'll find each lesson component along with a time estimate for how long it will take, a list of the supplies you will need, and a list of the things you'll need to prepare before class for that activity.

A unique Bible Background study is provided for each lesson to help you prepare your heart and mind as a leader or volunteer before class. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of the biblical setting of the day's passage along with any helpful information to help you field questions the children may have about the lesson. (Detailed explanations of each lesson component follow below.)

Anything that needs to be printed and possibly copied for each lesson (the "printables") are included in the download of each lesson. They are designed to be effective using simple black and white printing on standard-sized paper.

Finally, each lesson has a Take-Home page designed to be copied and sent home with the child. The resource is directed either toward parents (Sunday school) or children (Children's church). Either way, parents are encouraged to use the resource to talk with their child about the week's lesson. The page also suggests ways to apply scriptural lessons all week through family discussions and activities.

The Sunday School Curriculum

The Sunday school curriculum is divided by age group into: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6). The lessons are designed for use in small group settings of approximately 10–12 children. If you expect more than 18 children in a room, we recommend dividing into smaller groups so all children feel engaged in the activities. If your group is smaller than 9 or 10, the games and activities can be adapted for fewer children.

Each weekly Sunday school lesson contains the following sequential Lesson Elements:

- ▶ **Welcome Activity** – An attention grabber designed for the beginning of class as you wait for latecomers to arrive.
- ▶ **Lesson Introduction** – A group activity to start the children thinking about the Big Idea and its application.
- ▶ **Scripture Story** – An engaging way to tell the story of the Key Scripture passage. It may include visual aids, drama, costumes, simple experiments, or props.
- ▶ **Story Discussion** – Discussion questions varied according to age group. We provide suggested answers for some of the trickier questions to aid you in your discussion with the children.



► **Variable Elements** – The below elements are variable to keep each week’s approach fresh.

- **Memory Verse Activity**
- **Snack**
- **Craft** – Step-by-step directions and illustrations are provided at the end of each lesson.
- **Music** – You may choose to find your own recordings or sing the songs with instrument accompaniment or without musical background.
- **Game**
- **Other Lesson Application Activities**

► **Closing Activity** – A simple and quick activity that allows you to bring the lesson to a close. Hand out the “Live It All Week” Take-Home page during this part of the lesson, and make sure children take home any crafts or activity pages.

A Special Note to Leaders

Congratulations on your role in helping to shape young hearts and minds in the Christian faith. Sunday school is a time-honored tradition of inviting the youngest of Christ’s family to get to know their Savior, their church family, and their place in the Kingdom of God through weekly teaching and hands-on participation. We have specifically designed the *Hearts Alive* curriculum to be everything you need to confidently lead an engaging time of worship, learning, and fun in the service of Christian formation. Here are a few specifics about the curriculum to help you in your role:

- *Hearts Alive* uses the New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) of The Holy Scriptures, believing it is the easiest translation for children to read and understand while remaining faithful to the original text. If you choose, you may use a different version in your lessons.
- We have included a unique Bible Background section specifically to help you get familiar with the background of the week’s passage of Scripture. It provides the setting of the passage in the overall story of the Bible, the connection to the life and work of Jesus Christ, and how the passage speaks to the church today. We recommend taking some time to read, pray through, and digest this information to help you be prepared for questions and good discussion.
- Much of the Lesson Content is bolded and prefaced by words like “Say:” or “Continue:” These sections are designed for you, the leader, to speak aloud. However, we suggest that you use



the words as a guide rather than reading directly from the page. The most effective way to communicate with children is by making eye contact. Try reading the lesson several times to get a good idea of what you want to say and the main points of the Bible teaching. You may want to highlight the sections you want to be sure to mention specifically. Other parts you can put into your own words. Have the lesson handy to refer to on paper or electronic device as you go.

- Feel free to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of your class. If a different approach to the lesson works better, go for it! For example, you may choose to swap out drama for a visual aid in the lesson or vice versa. Use what is written as a guide to present the beauty and power of God's Word to your group of children in the most effective way possible.

Jesus said to "*let the children come to me.*" What greater calling can there be than helping to lead precious young souls to the heart of God and the joy, peace, and power of living the Christian faith? We pray that you will find the *Hearts Alive* curriculum an exciting and effective way to bring the wonderful message of salvation to the children of your congregation and community even as your entire church body unites in the weekly exploration of God's Word as one.



PROPHECY and EXPECTATION: The MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

Isaiah 2:1–5

Big Idea:

One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires.
Praise God—this time is coming!

Memory Verse:

"Let us go up to the LORD's mountain."
Isaiah 2:3a



Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces the meaning of *advent*: coming. This year, the Advent lessons focus on God's promises. We should wait with expectation for those promises because we have seen repeatedly that God always keeps his promises. This first week of Advent centers on God's promise to rule and reign from his holy mountain in the New Jerusalem. Though now we have war and strife, God promises a future of peace with Jesus as King.



	Week 1 Lesson Plan	Activity and Supplies	To Prepare
1	Welcome Activity (10 minutes)	Transformed Dough • Playdough (one handful for each child)	Roll the dough into balls (one for each child).
2	Lesson Introduction (5 minutes)	Make a Mountain • Playdough from the Welcome Activity • Medium-size mixing bowl	
3	Scripture Story (10 minutes)	The Mountain of the Lord Printables: Figures (one for each child) • Toothpicks (one for each child) • Tape • Scissors • Bible • Playdough mountain from Introduction	Copy and cut apart the printable figures. Fold them along the dotted line and tape them to the toothpicks to make little puppets (one for each child).
4	Discussion (5 minutes)		
5	Memory Verse Activity (5 minutes)	Climb and Sing • Mountain from the Lesson Introduction • Figures from the Scripture Story • Optional: Music player with Web access • Optional: Visit YouTube and search for “Joy to the World—Instrumental” by Isaac Watts. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKcw7wrxyrc	Queue the song for class.
6	Snack (10 minutes)	Mountain Snack • Fruit cups (one for each child) • Teddy bear graham cookies • Spoons • Small plates • Optional: Video player with Web access • Optional: Visit YouTube and search for “Joy to the World” by Listener Kids. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TGPokt-Z3M	Gather the supplies and queue the video for class.
7	Craft (10 minutes)	Holy Mountain Ornament Printables: Tiny Temple (one for each child) • Craft sticks (three for each child) • Yarn, ribbon, or twine (one 6-in. length for each child) • Craft glue • Crayons • Optional: Markers, small stickers, or tiny pompoms	Copy and cut out the printables. Gather the remaining supplies.
8	Closing (5 minutes)	Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus! Printables: Take-home page (one for each child)	Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.



Continuing his discourse from the previous chapter, Isaiah the prophet speaks to the Jews of his day. While the Jews were outwardly keeping traditions, they were not following God's law in their hearts. Isaiah reminded them of their position among the nations, the chosen people of God: The Lord and his holy mountain, Zion, are higher than all the other gods and their mountains (Isaiah 2:2). Mount Zion is not the highest mountain because of its physical height; rather, it is "the mountain of the Lord," the dwelling place of the God of Israel, the god higher than all other gods. As his people, the Jews ought to live as God taught them, as a guide to all nations. They ought to be aware that, in the end, God's ways will be the ways of all people.

Old Testament. Old Testament prophets were people from every walk of life. Unlike the Levitical priesthood, which was hereditary, prophets came from a variety of backgrounds. Most often the prophets spoke to the nation of Israel on God's behalf. They also spoke to Judah after the kingdom was divided. Isaiah is one of the "major prophets," a designation determined by the length of his writings. Prophets were considered God's voice for their generation; yet, we need to consider and carefully interpret their words as God's voice to all generations, since there are events still to come.

In the first chapters of Isaiah, the prophet exposes the wrongdoing and wandering hearts of God's people. They were content in their sin. Isaiah's prophecy is to his generation, but also for the future. God desires a relationship with his people and his plan is that all nations, not just Israel, will know him through Christ Jesus. In Israel's history, Mount Zion was the physical mountain where the temple stood and the place where God's presence was known to dwell. Isaiah is prophesying about the future when

God's people, the church, will be made up of all nations. There will be no more war; everyone will live together in peace because everyone will know and love the God of their salvation. Considering this, Isaiah tells the people to live now as God has taught them.

Jesus. During his ministry, Jesus referred to believers as a city set on a hill (Matthew 5:14) and a light to the Gentiles (Acts 13:47). These and other metaphors indicate that God's fame would spread throughout the nations. The coming of all nations to Zion (his church) occurs between the two advents of Jesus—his first as the babe in the manger and the suffering servant, and the second as Judge and King (Isaiah 2:4).

The Church and the World. When the word *Zion* is used prophetically in Scripture, it refers to the church and coming kingdom of God. While we wait for the Second Advent, we can experience the kingdom of God in our lives by the Holy Spirit's power. The presence of God lives no longer on the temple mount, but in us. God teaches us how to live, both by the Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit's prompting. As the apostle Paul says in Romans 14:17, "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit."

We are the city on a hill; we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is what Jesus said about us. We are to live as he taught us to live, to treat others as he demonstrated. There is a peace—an absence of turmoil and war where the Holy Spirit dwells. This makes God famous and draws others to want to know him. This has been God's plan from the beginning. As believers in Jesus, as the citizens of God's kingdom on earth, and as the Zion of God, the church is to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ and be his witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth.



1 Welcome Activity

To Prepare:

Roll the dough into balls (one for each child).

Transformed Dough

Distribute the dough. Say: **Do you think we should keep this dough in balls, or should we shape it into something new? Go ahead! You can roll it, twist it, flatten it, and shape it into your very own creation. After a few minutes, we'll make something different.** Allow the children several minutes to shape and form the dough.

2 Lesson Introduction

Make a Mountain

Set the bowl upside down on the table. Say: **Now let's combine our dough to make a mountain. We'll pretend it is the biggest mountain in the whole world! This bowl will be the base of the mountain, and our dough will be the peak.** Have each child stick their dough on top of the bowl. Then mold it into the shape of a mountain peak.

Would you like to climb a mountain one day? Can you imagine climbing to the top of the tallest mountain in the world? What do you think you could see from the top? Let the children respond. Answers might include: clouds, snow, birds, tiny buildings or people, etc. **That would be amazing! Imagine seeing the world from up high! We can look forward to climbing a mountain one day.**

Today our Bible story is about a very tall and good mountain. Let's read our Bible to find out about it. Keep the mountain on the table for the Scripture Story.

3 Scripture Story

To Prepare:

Copy and cut apart the printable figures. Fold them along the dotted line and tape them to the toothpicks to make little puppets (one for each child).

The Mountain of the Lord

Set the printables on the table near the "mountain." Open the Bible on your lap. Say: **Christmas is coming in four weeks. Now, we are in the Advent season. Can you say, "Advent"?** (Advent) **It comes right before Christmas. The word *Advent* means coming.**



Imagine that you have a grandma who lives in another state, and she is the most fun, most wonderful grandma in the



whole world. One day, your parents tell you, “Grandma is coming to visit very soon!” You are so excited! You wonder what you will do together. Will you visit special places? Will you play games together? Will you eat yummy treats? You can’t wait until she arrives. You count down the days. You know you will see your grandma soon because she has *promised* to come.

God makes promises to us as well. We can read his promises in the Bible. Hold up the Bible. **The Bible is the Word of God. Today we will learn about a promise God has made to us.**

People sometimes break their promises. Let’s imagine again about your grandma coming to visit. She promises you she will come on Tuesday, but then there is a big snowstorm. Her plane can’t take off in that weather, and so she can’t visit you that day. How disappointing!

God never disappoints us because he always, always keeps his promises! Long ago, he promised his people that he would send someone to save them. They waited and waited, and then their Savior came. He came on Christmas Day. Do you know the name of the Savior? (Jesus) **God kept his promise by sending Jesus. Now, everyone who believes in Jesus can live on God’s holy mountain forever.**

Today our promise has to do with this mountain. Distribute the printable figures. **It used to be that there was a big temple-church on a mountain and God’s Spirit was there. God’s people went there to worship him. People didn’t come from very far away because those people didn’t know about God. But God promises that a time is coming when people from all over the world will worship God. God will make a new heaven and a new earth, and God’s people will live with him on his holy mountain.**

In this future time, God promises people will live just as he wants. Right now we have sadness, sin, and fighting on the earth, but one day people will gather in love and peace. That is what God wants, and so one day that will happen.

Let’s have our little figures take a journey to God’s holy mountain. Let’s walk across the field. Have your figure walk. **Let’s jump over the fallen log.** Have your figure jump. **Let’s swim across the river.** Have your figure swim.

Let’s climb the mountain. Mime your figure climbing the mountain of dough. **Let’s worship God on his holy mountain.** Stick the toothpick end of your figure in the dough. All the children should do the same. **We are all with God on his holy mountain. People from all over the world will love and obey God. They**



will live in peace with God and one another. This is just what God wants. I can't wait for this day!

But how do we know it will happen? Because God promises us in the Bible. Hold up the Bible. **When God makes a promise, he always, always keeps it. During this Advent, we can wait with excitement and hope for the day we know is coming—a day when people from all over the world will live at peace with God and one another. We don't know exactly *when* it will be, but we know it will happen. Now, we wait. We get ready. One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God; this time is coming!**

4 STORY DISCUSSION

- ▶ **Have you ever waited for someone to visit you?** (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ **Long ago, who were God's people waiting for? Here's a hint: he came to earth on Christmas Day.** (Jesus)
- ▶ Point to the mountain. **What does God promise about this mountain?** (People will love God, there will be no more fighting, etc.)
- ▶ **People sometimes break their promises. Sometimes they can't help it. Has this ever happened to you?** (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ **Does God ever break his promises?** (No!)

Close in prayer: **Dear Lord, thank you that you keep your promises. We are so happy that people all over the world will know you and love you, and that there will be peace. Help us wait with excitement and get ready for that time! Amen.**

5 MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Climb and Sing

"Let us go up to the LORD's mountain." Isaiah 2:3a

Gather the children around the table. Distribute the figures. Say: **Let's make our figures "ice skate" to the music.** Play the music and have the figures "skate" across the table. After two or three verses, stop the music. **Does anybody know this tune? It is a Christmas song called "Joy to the World" and celebrates that God kept his promise to his people by sending Jesus on Christmas Day long ago. It reminds us that God always, always keep his promises.**

To Prepare:

Queue the song for class.



Today we learned about a promise God has made to us. One day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God, this time is coming! Our memory verse has to do with just that: “Let us go up to the LORD’s mountain” (Isaiah 2:3a).

Repeat after me.

“Let us go up . . .	Children repeat.
to the LORD’s mountain.”	Children repeat.
Isaiah 2:3a	Children repeat.

We can even sing the verse to the first part of our Christmas song.

Demonstrate for the children.

“Let us go up / to the LORD’s mountain.”

“Joy to the world / the Lord is come.”

Sing it several times with the children. Once they are confident, turn the music back on or sing the song yourself. You can hum the other lines of the song. You can make the figures climb the mountain, dance, skate, skip, or twirl to the song.

6 snack

To Prepare:

Gather the supplies and queue the video for class.

Mountain Snack

Say: **Today we learned about a promise God made to us. One day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming! Let’s make a snack that reminds us of a mountain.** Distribute a plate, spoon, upside down fruit cup, and several teddy grahams to each child. The fruit is the mountain, and the teddy grahams are the people coming to worship God.

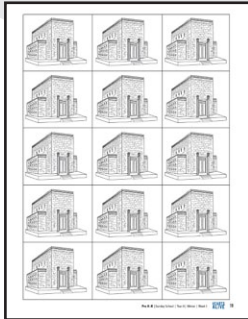
Play the video.



7 Craft

To Prepare:

Copy and cut out the printables. Gather the remaining supplies.



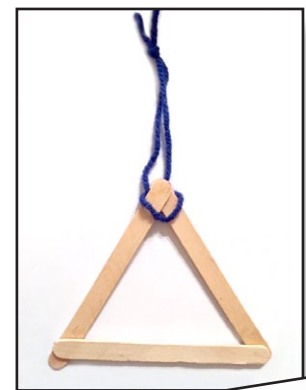
Holy Mountain Ornament

Say: **Remember, we are in the season of Advent. Advent means coming. God's promises are all sure to come true. Look how he kept his promise by sending Jesus our Savior on Christmas Day long ago! He will keep his promise that all nations will one day worship together and live as God desires.**

As we look ahead to that day, let's make an ornament to hang on our Christmas tree. It looks like a mountain, so that it will remind us of God's promise. The children will make an ornament every week this Advent. Each ornament will remind them of a promise of God.

To make this ornament:

1. Distribute three craft sticks to each child.
2. Glue the ends together to form a triangle (mountain). Allow them to set for one minute.
3. Tie a piece of yarn, ribbon, or twine around the top of the triangle (mountain).
4. Distribute the printables and coloring supplies. Have the children color the temple. Explain that it is God's temple-church. It reminds us that one day God will live with his people once again.
5. Glue the temple to the top of the triangle (mountain).
6. Optional: Decorate it with markers, stickers, pompoms, etc.
7. Write each child's name on the back of the ornament, or provide assistance as needed.





8 CLOSING

To Prepare:

Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.



Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus!

Say: **Advent is four weeks long.** Hold up four fingers. **We can count down on our fingers until we get to Christmas, which is Jesus’s birthday. Count with me.** Point to your fingers as you count down: **Four, Three, Two, One . . .** then clap your hands and say: **Jesus!**

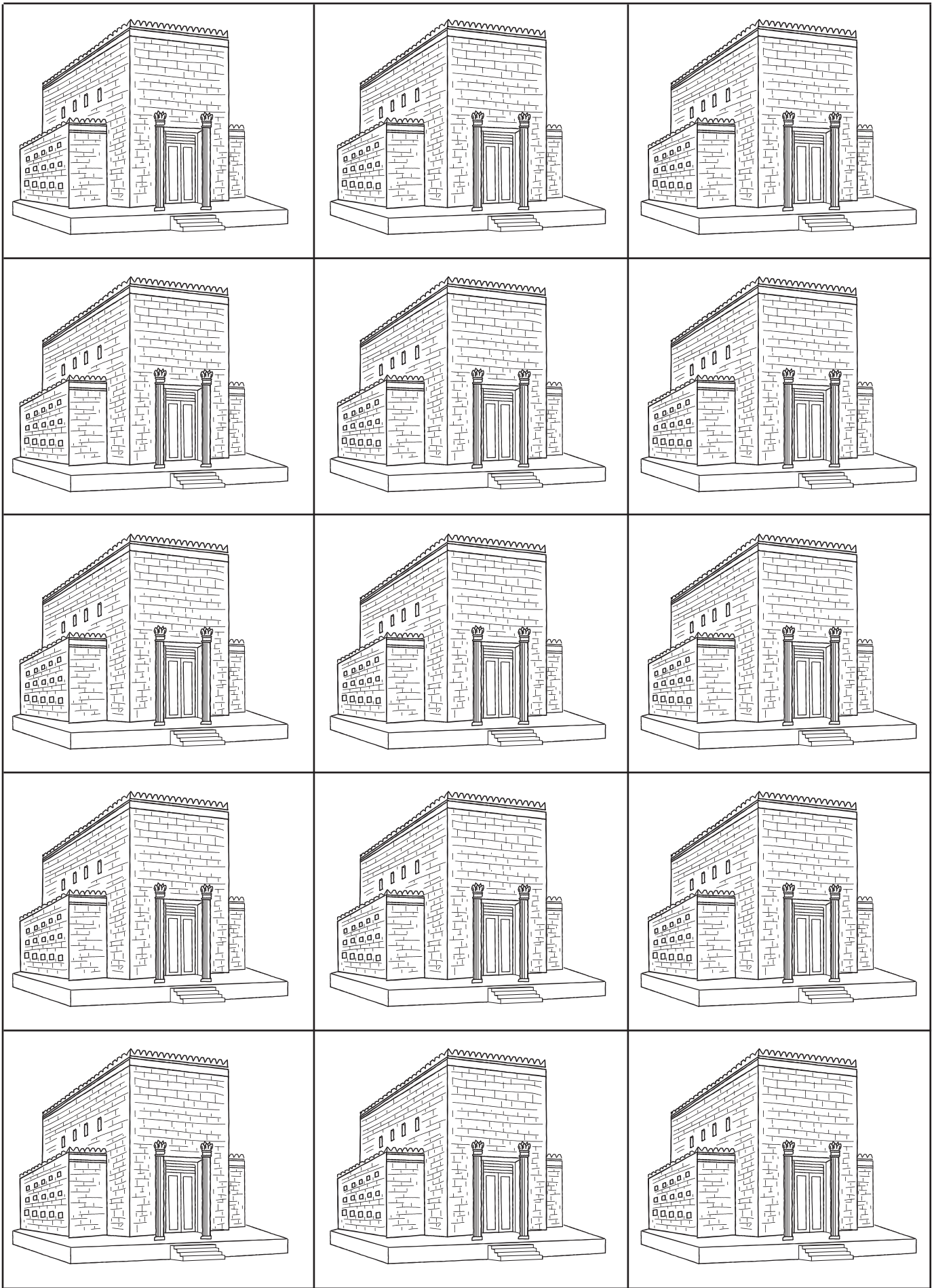
We are counting down till Christmas because Christmas is a celebration that God kept his promise. He gave us the best gift of all: Jesus! If God kept his promise by sending his Son, we can believe that he will keep his other promises to us.

God promises us that one day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!

Let’s do the Advent countdown three times. Count your fingers and clap your hands just as you did before. Repeat three times: **Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus! Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus! Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus!**

Children line up to meet their parents. As the children leave, hand out their Take-home pages and remind them to bring home their crafts.





WEEK 1

LIVE IT ALL WEEK

Pre-K-K Take Home Paper for Families



What Your Child Learned Today

The word *Advent* means coming. During the season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas), we *remember* that Jesus came to earth on Christmas Day long ago. We look *forward* to when he comes back again, and we are *thankful* that he is with us even now. Jesus's first coming was a promise God fulfilled on Christmas Day. His second coming is a promise yet to be fulfilled. Today your child learned of another promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah: that believers from all over the world will someday unite in worship of God. We will live as God desires—at peace with God and with one another.

Try This

Your child learned an Advent countdown to do each week. Hold up four fingers and count them with your other hand as you say, "Four, Three, Two, One . . ." Then clap your hands and say, "Jesus!" You can end your mealtime prayer this way to build anticipation for Christmas. If your child is old enough to understand a calendar, then count down the days until Christmas on the calendar. You can place a sticker or a star on each day that passes.

Table Talk

- ▶ **Advent means coming. Have you ever looked forward to the coming of a special visitor? Share your memories together.**
- ▶ **People often make promises. Do people always keep their promises? Why or why not?**
- ▶ **Does God always keep his promises? Why? See 1 Chronicles 29:11–12. (God is over all.)**
- ▶ **We know that God keeps his promises because we can see how he kept his promise to send a Savior. Who is that Savior? (Jesus)**
- ▶ **God promises that he will bring people from all over the world into his family. They will worship him and live just as he desires. Do we see this already happening? (Yes, there are Christians all over the world.)**

Prophecy and Expectation: The Mountain of the Lord

- Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5
- Big Idea: One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!
- Memory Verse: "Let us go up to the LORD's mountain."
Isaiah 2:3a

SOMETHING ELSE TO DO

This Advent, learn some traditional carols whose words are rich with meaning. You can play the carol during dessert, at bedtime, or during family devotions. This week's carol is the traditional Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World." It celebrates that God kept his promise to send a Savior—that Savior is Jesus! Your child learned this week's memory verse—"Let us go up / to the LORD's mountain" (Isaiah 2:3a) to the tune of the first line of "Joy to the World."