

# HOPING IN THE PROMISE

*Celebrate Advent by anticipating the Savior.*

**Author:** Kelsey Beck

## Lesson Plan

### Prepare For It

(Teacher prep, before class)



### Get To It

(Begin the lesson)



### Dig Into It

(The meat of the Bible lesson)



### Make It Real

(Hands-on activity)



### Own It

(Lesson wrap-up, review, & challenge)



## COLLIDE WITH THE WORD

*Pick a verse from any of the units you've already covered—*

Romans 5:11, NLT

Matthew 22:37-39, NLT

John 16:33, NLT

## PREPARE FOR IT

*This time is for you to prepare for the week's lesson—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Read, contemplate, and pray.*

The lesson you're about to teach deals with an exciting topic that can be a little challenging since students may not have a frame of reference for it—Advent. In our mile-a-minute consumerist culture where Christmas is commercialized and trivialized, the annual practice of thoughtfully anticipating the Messiah may seem far-off or foreign. If the significance of Advent takes root in your students' hearts and minds now, they'll be set up for a fuller understanding of Christmas, the Incarnation, and Jesus as their Savior. Thanks for investing in the next generation of Savior-seekers!

*Check out the words in **BOLD** throughout the lesson. This is suggested conversation for you to use with preteens. Remember to use your own words and to speak naturally.*

*This Bonus Lesson does not include any Crashbook activities.*



## Related Topics

Advent  
The Incarnation  
Jesus as Savior

## Primary Texts

Isaiah 7:14  
Matthew 1:18—2:12

## Grab It

- Bibles
- *Crashcards* (send these home with parents)
- *Collide DVD*
- DVD player
- rulers, one for every two preteens
- paper
- pens or colored pencils
- white board and dry erase markers
- a box wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper
- string
- marker
- tape
- access to YouTube, opt.

## GET TO IT

Dive into the lesson and encourage conversation.



### Grab It

Collide DVD  
DVD player  
rulers, one  
for every two  
preteens  
access to  
YouTube, opt.

## MEMORIZE IT

**View It:** Play the *Collide with the Word* video you chose to review (or play all three). Access it on the DVD, on the WordAction Publishing YouTube channel, or at [bitly.com/collidewiththeword](http://bitly.com/collidewiththeword). Take 90 seconds to see if any preteens can quote the verse(s).

**Ruler Drop**—Have students pair up for a ruler drop. One student dangles the ruler between their thumb and forefinger; the other holds their fingers at the 6-inch mark, ready to grab the ruler when it's dropped. Explain that the point is for the ruler-dropper to make the ruler-catcher WAIT. The catcher needs to ANTICIPATE when the ruler will drop so they can catch it quickly.

## DIG INTO IT

The meat of the Bible lesson: where you and your students will discover the BIG POINTS and what God has to say

### Big Point #1: God kept His promise to send a long-awaited Savior.

1. Have you ever anticipated something? Have you ever waited for something that got you so excited you felt like you just couldn't wait? Allow a few minutes for students to share. When you think about your future, what do you anticipate most? What do you hope for?
2. Pass out paper and pens or colored pencils. Draw what you dream about—whether it's what you want to be, where you want to go, or who you want to meet.
3. Ask these questions and give students time to respond:
  - Think back to the game we just played. What did it feel like to prepare for and anticipate what was coming next? What did you have to do in order to be good at that game?
  - What about waiting for other things in life? What do you feel as you wait for those things you drew?
  - What could you do to prepare for those great things to happen?
  - Why do you think God sometimes asks us to wait for great things? How does He want us to prepare for those things?

### Grab It

Bibles  
paper  
pens or colored  
pencils

## What Does God Say About It?

1. Let's take a look at what God wants us to hope for most. Have one student read **Isaiah 7:14**. Then have others take turns reading verses in **Matthew 1:18—2:12**. Make sure each student has a copy of the texts.
2. Discuss these questions:
  - What does the verse from Isaiah have to do with the story of Jesus' birth? Reread **Isaiah 7:14**. Explain that the verse in Isaiah was a prophecy written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth. Allow a moment for your students to absorb the wonder of that fact.
  - Because of what Isaiah said, the people in Israel anticipated, hoped for, and expected a savior more than anything else in the world. What is a "savior"?

- **Why do you think it was so important to the Israelites that a savior was coming someday?** Students don't have to arrive at a definite answer. Just get them thinking about the significance of Jesus' prophesied birth.

## **Big Point #2:** *Many people anticipated Jesus' birth because He came to save the world from sin and brokenness.*

1. For hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Israel anticipated His birth. They thought Jesus would be a king who would use powerful armies to defeat their enemies.
2. **How was Jesus different than what they anticipated?** (*Jesus is King, but His Kingdom is different from what everyone expected!*)

## **MAKE IT REAL: GUIDED PRAYER**

*A hands-on activity to solidify the lesson*

### **Grab It**

white board  
and dry erase  
markers

1. Switch gears by asking students, **If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be?** Write these names on the white board. Choose one student to pretend to be one of the more well-known people. The student you chose will pretend to be that celebrity, and the rest of the class will pretend to meet them for the first time. Encourage students to use their imaginations—to get excited, talk to the celebrity, and ask for autographs.
2. After this activity, ask, **What was it like to meet (the celebrity)? What would it feel like in real life?**
3. **What about the people in our story today who waited so long to meet Jesus? How do you think they felt when they finally met Him?**

## **What Does God Say About It?**

1. **What was the response of the Magi (also known as Wise Men) when they found out about Jesus? Why did the Wise Men react that way? What was so special about Jesus?**
2. After listening to their thoughts, guide your students to **Matthew 1:21**—"He will save his people from their sins."
3. **What does that mean for us? How should we react as we get to know Jesus?** Students don't have to decide on a final answer right now. Just get them thinking about how they should respond to Jesus.

## **Help For it**

For Christians, Advent means an intersection of the past, present, and future. It is a time to prepare our hearts now (in the present) for the joy of Jesus' birth at Christmas (in the past). Another key part of Advent is preparing ourselves for Christ's second coming (in the future).

## **Big Point #3:** *At Advent, we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth and find joy in knowing Jesus as our Savior.*

1. In your own words, explain the significance of the Advent season. You can say something like, **We have a holiday that helps us respond to Jesus like the Wise Men did—Advent. Advent is a word that means "coming." The season of Advent is a time we set aside to think about Jesus' birth. Just like waiting to open**

our presents makes us even more excited for Christmas Day, Advent helps prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate God’s greatest gift to us—Jesus!

2. Why is Jesus the greatest gift? Listen to their answers—maybe some will refer back to **Matthew 1:21**.

## What Does God Say About It?

1. **Before class**, write the verse **Matthew 1:23** on a piece of paper. Roll it up and tie it so it looks like a scroll. Put it in a box and wrap it in wrapping paper. Set the box at the front of the classroom. Let the anticipation build!
2. Announce, **Now it’s time to open our present!** Pick a student to open the box. Ask them to read the verse. **What name does this verse call Jesus, and what does that name mean?**
3. The name “Immanuel” reminds us that Jesus, God’s Son, became a baby at Christmas so He could be “God with us!” Because Jesus became “God with us,” we get to have a relationship with God—He makes us His children, and He is our Heavenly Father! That’s the greatest gift in the world!

### Grab It

Bible  
a box wrapped  
in Christmas  
wrapping paper  
paper  
string  
marker

## OWN IT

Wrap up the lesson and challenge students to **OWN** the theme in everyday life.

1. Give each student a sheet of white paper and tell them to write down or draw their answers as you discuss.
2. **What promise did God keep to Israel on the first Christmas?** (*To send a Savior to set them free from sin and brokenness*)
3. **What promises has God made to you?** (*New life in Christ; a relationship with God; the gift of becoming more like Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit*) **Why is Advent a time to remember and celebrate God’s promises?**
4. **What are some ways you can celebrate Advent as you anticipate Christmas?**
5. Have students take their piece of paper and crumple it up. Then tell them to twist the paper into a circle and tape it so it stays that way.
6. **One symbolic decoration we use during Advent is the wreath. You’ve made your own paper wreath! The circular shape that goes round and round reminds us of infinity—the never-ending love of the God who is with us. The white paper reminds us of the purity of Jesus, who came to save us from darkness and sin.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORDS  
AND HAVE FAITH.  
CALLING WITH THE MOUTH.  
Small Bible verses written on the Scriptures long ago  
to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and  
encouragement to live well, always be ready  
promises to be fulfilled. (Romans 10:8-10)

OWN YOUR PROMISES.  
Read scriptures 1:2-2:23 together. Talk about the two  
parts that speak to you separately for you and how that  
you struggle with showing. Have your present do the  
same.

### Grab It

Crashcards, one  
per family  
paper  
pens or colored  
pencils  
tape

## Here’s your challenge:

1. Do something to anticipate the joy of Jesus’ birth every day until Christmas! Here are some ideas to try:
  - Make a chain of paper rings, then tear off one every day until Christmas Day.
  - Hang one ornament on the tree every day until Christmas Day.
  - Look up more ideas for an advent wreath online, then make your own.
2. **But don’t just do these activities! Use them as reminders of God’s wonderful promises to you! Remember that you have hope in the greatest gift of all—Jesus the Savior!**

Send home the *Crashcards* for this week. This is a short activity parents can do with their preteens to reinforce the lesson.

