

Born the King

Children's Church Sermon Outlines

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CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERMON OUTLINES

How to Use

The **Children's Church Sermon Outlines** were created with Children's Church in mind, or any other time (such as Sunday school or a midweek gathering) that the children are assembled for worship separately from the adults. These outlines are not fully scripted. Instead, they provide a short framework or jumping-off point for retelling the biblical text to young worshipers in a way that is theologically accurate and age appropriate. The outlines also suggest ways to help kids engage with the biblical text and expand their thinking. Multi-sensory experiences and open-ended questions are encouraged. When the outline provides dialogue, you can say it verbatim or phrase it in your own words.

Depending on the amount of time in your setting, feel free to use these outlines in conjunction with the **Family Worship Experiences**, which can help further engage young worshipers. A traditional one-hour session may include the weekly worship song provided in the **Children's Ministry Resource**, a candle reading, reading of and retelling the biblical text for the week, reading of a chapter from *Born the King* kid's book, an activity from the **Family Worship Experiences** document, and prayer time.

Additionally, consider sharing the correlative **Family Take-Home Advent Rings** and **Born the King Coloring Pages** with families so they can continue to expand their interaction with the text at home.

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

HOPE

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Supplies Needed:

- Advent Wreath (Wreath, 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle arranged in the greenery or in the middle, 1 white candle in the center), matches*
- 8.5 x 11 paper, 1 piece per child
- Tape
- **Born the King** kid's book
- Party hats
- White board and dry erase markers
- Random objects

***Note:** If your church uses an Advent wreath and Advent readings while the children are participating in the main worship space, there is no need to feel obligated to repeat this activity. However, if this is not a part of the corporate worship experience for your kids, incorporate it here. Even if you have to blow out the candle quickly after the reading for safety reasons, or use battery-operated candles, the sensory experience of the colors, lighting the candle, and reading or listening together is significant. Perhaps you can increase the sensory experience further by incorporating something to feel (a small piece of greenery cut from the wreath to hold, a small candle or piece of wax to feel during the reading, or a piece of purple cloth, which is the color of Advent). The more senses engaged, the richer the experience.

Engage

Give each child a piece of 8.5 x 11 paper. Show them how to roll it into a tube shape to make a "spyglass." Encourage the kids to keep watch through their spyglass. Some kids may want to watch out the window, while others may want to watch the doorway or around the room.

Explore

Say: This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. During Advent we prepare to celebrate Jesus's birth and anticipate that Jesus will come again. We remember that God always keeps his promises, even if it takes a long time or it doesn't look the way we imagined.

Each week of Advent is marked by a special word that reminds us what this season is about. This week, we remember that Advent is about **hope**. We might be hoping for lots of things this season like cool Christmas presents, yummy treats, or time with people we love.

Option 1: Read the Intro and Chapter 1 “Ostrich Hope” in the book **Born the King: An Advent Story for Kids**. Pass out the party hats. (You’ll probably want to take these away after this activity to limit distractions.)

- **Say:** Put your hat on so it looks like a horn. Does your horn go on your nose or your forehead or your cheek?
- **Ask:** How is the horn a symbol of hope for the characters in our story?

Option 2: Sing along to *Hope Is Here* from the **Children’s Ministry Resource**.

Option 3: Candle Reading—HOPE—Light a purple candle.

Say: During Advent we light candles to remind us of the anticipation of Jesus’s return. Today’s candle represents HOPE. We have hope that God keeps his promises, and that Jesus will return one day.

Ask:

- What does the hope that we experience in Advent mean for us as Christians? What do we hope for?
- What makes people feel hopeless?
- An agent is a representative for someone important. How can we be agents (or even secret agents) of hope? How can we be people who bring hope to people or situations that might be feeling hopeless?

Expand

Say: During Advent, we’re waiting, but not in a boring, sitting around kind of way. We are waiting in an active way. We have jobs to do—like paying attention, acting like Jesus, keeping watch, and getting ready for Jesus’s return. As Christians, we’re on the lookout for signs that Jesus is coming and for ways we can be a part of His kingdom coming. Our passage of scripture today has a lot to say about that.

Read: Matthew 24:36-44

Say: This passage of scripture is meant to remind us to pay close attention—like when we’re looking through our spyglass. This passage is warning us not to get distracted by things like new presents, cool toys, lots of extracurricular activities, or being too busy. Even more importantly, this is a message of hope! God **always** keeps His promises. Christ will return. If we’re watching attentively, if we’re ready for it, and if we’re working as agents (sometimes secret agents and sometimes not-so-secret agents) of hope in the world, then we will see and experience the hope of Jesus’s return. As agents of hope, we’re participating in God’s Kingdom coming!

Express

Option 1: Choose one or more of the **Family Worship Experiences** to help kids reflect on the truth of God's Word.

Option 2: Encourage kids to draw or write their reflections on a white board. Prompts might include:

- What distracts you from watching and waiting for God's Kingdom to come?
- What can you do to prepare for something big?
- How can you be an agent of hope in your family or in your neighborhood?
- What does it look like to be ready and paying attention in our everyday lives?
- Why do you think Christians are excited for Jesus's return?
- What can we do while we're waiting for Jesus's return?

Option 3: Silly Stories of Hope

The story of hope from the **Born the King** book is a really silly story about a horn that comes to represent hope. Set out a pile of random objects. Invite kids to choose an object and make up a silly or not-so-silly story about how that object can represent hope. Suggested objects may include things like a pencil, a mug, a stuffed animal, a microphone, plastic fruit, etc.

Pray

Invite kids to say a sentence prayer if they'd like. Then close in prayer:

Dear God, We thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, and for always keeping your promises. We pray that we will have hope as we look forward to Jesus's return. Amen