

The five candles:

1. (Isaiah's candle) PROMISE -- concentrate on God's promise of a Saviour.
2. (Mary's candle) ANNOUNCEMENT -- concentrate on God's fulfilling the promise
3. (John the Baptist's candle) - PREPARATION --concentrate on our preparing for Christ's coming
4. (Shepherd's candle) CELEBRATION -- concentrate on the joy & praise in seeing the birth of Jesus
5. The Christ candle -- concentrate on Jesus, why He came, how we should respond

Start this when?;

4 weeks before Christmas, with the Christ candle lit on Christmas morning.

Routine

1. Get prepared
2. For each candle to be lit:
 - Name the candle.
 - Explain the theme
 - Light the candle.
3. Read the passage
4. Blow out the candle.

Candle of promise

Theme -- God promised long ago that there would be a Saviour.

Event -- A prophet (Isaiah perhaps) being told by God that there will be a Savior.

Scriptures -- promises of a Saviour.

- Isaiah 35: 3,4
- Isaiah 9: 2,3,6,7
- Isaiah 11: 1-5
- Isaiah 7: 14
- Isaiah 61: 1-2
- Micah 5: 2
- Zechariah 9: 9

Candle of announcement

Theme -- God fulfilled His promise.

Event -- The annunciation

Scriptures --

- Luke 1: 26-33
- Luke 1: 34-37
- Luke 1: 38
- Luke 1: 46-49
- Luke 1: 50-53
- Luke 1: 54,55
- Luke 1: 67-71

Candle of preparation

Theme -- Preparing our hearts to receive the Saviour when He comes.

Event -- John the Baptist's birth, role, work

Scriptures --

- Luke 1: 13-17
- Isaiah 40: 3-5
- Luke 1: 76,77
- Luke 10: 21-24
- Luke 12: 35-40
- 2 Peter 3: 3-7
- 2 Peter 3: 10-13

Candle of celebration (Shepherds and angels)

Theme -- We can have great joy that Jesus has come.

Event -- the birth of Jesus

Scriptures --

- Luke 2: 6,7
- Luke 2: 8-10
- Luke 2: 10-12 Luke 2: 13-15
- Luke 2: 16-20
- Matthew 2: 1,2,8
- Matthew 2: 9-11

Christ candle

Theme -- We need to respond to Christ in repentance and trust.

[This year, I think we will concentrate more on worship

for this theme. The theme will be something like acknowledging the risen and exalted Saviour by our worship.

I'll probably change the Scripture passages to match it.

Maybe

Revelation 5

1 Peter 2:4-10

Hebrews (maybe 7:26-28; 2:9-18; anything in 1; 10:12-18; 12:28-29)

Col 1:13-20

Ph'p 2:5-11

something in Eph 1,2

Romans 8:31-39]

Event -- Christ's life, death, resurrection

Scriptures -- on man's response to Christ
(Break Bread on this day also.)

- Hebrews 2: 14,15
- John 1: 10-13
- Acts 3: 18b-20
- Acts 4: 10-12
- Acts 17: 30-31
- 2 Corinthians 5: 19 - 6: 2
- Titus 2: 11-14

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Advent