

Avent as a Liberating Revolution(great joy)

Jesus is the Rescuer-King

Last week we learned that Jesus is Emmanuel(God with us). This week we are going to learn about why that brought people "Great Joy"

Engage students by looking at the art piece- "Seeing Shepherds" by Daniel Bonnell- tell them we are going to take 2 minutes to look at the painting silently. Tell them to spend the 2 minutes looking and after the 2 minutes you will be asking some questions.

Set a timer for 2 minutes and look at the painting.

Ask students: What did it make you think of? What feelings did it bring up in you(joy, sadness, fear, peace, excitement, etc). What did you see?

This week we are going to be looking at Jesus birth and why people were so excited about it

Read: Luke 2:1-20

The Jews had been looking for their rescuer for thousands of years. Isaiah had prophesied about Jesus over 500 years before he was born!

Isaiah 9:6 says, "A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace."

Video: God's story: Christmas

The Jews had been waiting for their Rescuer-King for a really long time. His birth had been told about by Isaiah over 500 years ago and Finally-Jesus was the rescuer they had been waiting for! We are going to go to our small groups and talk a little more about how special the birth of Jesus is and we are going to make a comic strip telling the story in our own words and pictures.

Review/Dig Deeper/**Small group**:

From the scripture and the video- What special things did God do to let everyone know that Jesus was the rescuer the world was waiting for? (An angel appeared to Mary, Elizabeth's baby John jumped for joy in her belly, angels announced Jesus, a new star appeared, God kept Jesus safe from Herod, God sent Joseph an angel in his dreams.)

Why do you think so many unlikely things happened around Jesus' birth?

When you think about a rescuer, what are some characteristics you think of?

Activity- draw/create

Comic panels-have kids use the panels to do their own telling of the great joy and excitement that came from Jesus' birth. Tell them to pick 3 parts of the birth story and draw one on each panel. They can make it like a comic strip-with or without speech bubbles.

For younger kids(4)-they can draw and if they have a word they want on a panel the teachers can write it for them

For the older kids(6-11) they can draw and/or add speech bubbles to their comic strip