

Years A, B and C

Second Sunday after Christmas

God sends his son Jesus

INTRODUCTION

God created the world, and out of love made people to live in it. His plan for us was destroyed when Adam and Eve disobeyed him by eating the forbidden fruit. He sent someone special to rescue us from our wrongdoings. His name was Jesus.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light our candles today, we thank God for sending Jesus, the Light of the World, to chase away darkness forever. Together sing the Candle Song.

SORRY

Since we last met together, have we always been as kind and thoughtful as we should have been? The words of St. Paul remind us of how we should try to act towards other people:

You are God's chosen people. Always be ready to care for others and to be kind and gentle. Be patient and calm, and never boast or be proud of your goodness. Just as God always forgives you, so you must always be forgiving towards others. Fill your hearts with love, and whatever you do, do it for God.

(Colossians 3:12-13, 23)

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (JOHN 1:1-7, 14)

God has no beginning or end; he is forever the same. God made all things, for he is the provider of life. He sent his only son Jesus who became a human being, to share his everlasting life with us.

First, God sent a man called John to tell us about the Light of the World, the bringer of life, so that we might prepare for his coming. Jesus lived among us and was full of goodness and honesty. Through his words and actions, he shared the glory of his heavenly father with us all.

DISCUSSION

It is very difficult for us to understand all about God. What do we mean when we say that he has no beginning or end? (Use the analogy of a circle or a wedding ring to illustrate the idea of no beginning or end. Remind the children of the circular Advent wreath.)

Before the beginning of time, before the planets and the stars, before the earth and everything we know was created, there was nothing except God. He created us so that he could make us happy by sharing his life and love.

Two people spoiled his plans for us by disobeying God. Who were they? Adam and Eve spoiled their friendship with God and had to leave behind the Garden of Eden and the everlasting life they had enjoyed there.

God planned to save his people from their disobedience so that they could share his everlasting life again. Who did he send? Who exactly was Jesus, and why was he so special?

We know how difficult it is to imagine what God is like, but we can get a very good idea by learning about his son, Jesus, and listening to what he said and did.

ACTIVITY

Use the shapes given here to assemble a mobile made from thin cardboard, as illustrated.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, you loved us so much
that you sent your only son Jesus
so that we could share
your everlasting life.

We thank you for this love
and ask you to help us
to try not to spoil your plans again.

