



# 1st Sunday of Advent

Advent Theme: Hope    Nativity Character: Wisemen



Christmas Theme: Candy Canes



Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent comprises the four Sundays before Christmas Day. Each Sunday has a theme to remind us of the meaning of Christmas. Each week we will look at the Advent theme and the meaning behind another traditional part of Christmas celebrations. We will also talk about a character(s) in the nativity.



Today we are exploring the theme of hope. How would you define hope? Have you heard the expression, "We have hope in Jesus"? What do you think that means? Jesus is our hope for a relationship with God because Jesus is our savior. Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23.



**Light First Advent Candle:** (Sing song on next page)



The Magi or wisemen are the first characters we'll look at. They are an excellent example of how hope can affect one's actions. It's estimated that they travelled for about 2 years to reach Jesus. You would have to have hope in more than a star in the sky to keep going for so long. What do you think their motivation was? Read Matthew 2:1-15



**Play a Nativity Game:** You can print the Christmas bingo at <https://onecreativemommy.com/nativity-bingo-game-christmas-free/>. Or play online at <https://www.whychristmas.com/fun/>.



**Watch Video:** Follow the link to Douglas Talks – Christmas – Candy Canes <https://douglastalks.com/watch-douglas-talks/>



**Candy Cane Craft:** Discuss the video while kids are crafting.



Candy Cane Decoration – You will need a pool noodle (Who says it has to be red?), white ribbon, and string. Wrap the ribbon around the noodle. You will want to secure it with glue at the ends. Bend the top third down and tie in place. Add a bow and admire your work.



### Advent Song for Younger Children:

Stand in a circle holding hands, sing to the tune of “Ring Around the Rosy”

Ring around the Advent wreath	(walk around the circle)
1 Candle for each week	(hold up 1 finger)
Waiting, waiting	(walk forward then back)
‘Til they all are lit!	(throw your arms up and say the theme of the week, hope, love, joy, or peace)

### Advent Song for Older Children:

This is a variation of “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”. You can hear the tune at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7it5W1FVtTs>. The hand motions are: geyser - place palms together, raise them up then open and arc down, ocean - place hands on belly, bring out and open, joy - make a silly statue pose, river - use hand to make a wavy motion, alternate hands. For the last verse do all the motions in rapid succession.

1. I've got hope like a geyser  
I've got hope like a geyser  
I've got hope like a geyser in my soul  
(repeat)

3. I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul  
(repeat)

2. I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul  
(repeat)

4. I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul

5. I've got peace, love and joy like a river  
I've got peace, love and joy like a river  
I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul  
(repeat)