

## ADVENT WREATH

Obscure in origin, the Advent wreath may have had its beginning in the pagan fire wheel. In Christian symbolism the wheel or wreath stands for eternity. Its use is especially fitting during Advent, the season of the anticipation of the coming of our Lord. The word advent means "anticipation".

Children love the beauty of the simple traditional ceremony. Lighting candles in an Advent wreath is a simple way to start a tradition of family worship in the home. Those who participate will cherish the experience all their lives.

### The Ceremony of the Advent Wreath

- ◆ Buy or make a wreath and place four candles around or in the wreath and one candle in the center of the wreath.
- ◆ On the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent a prayer is said and some conversation about the use of the wreath is suggested. Usually the head of the family is responsible for this time, as well as for directing the lighting of the candles.
- ◆ On the fourth Sunday before Christmas, light the first candle. This candle is the Prophecy Candle and is purple. Verses to be shared are Luke 1:30-31, Isaiah 2:1-5, 11:1-9; 40:3-11. If you do this before your meal, the candle can be left burning throughout the meal.
- ◆ On the third Sunday before Christmas, light the second candle. This candle is the Bethlehem Candle and is also purple. Verses to be shared are Luke 2:24; Isaiah 7:13-14.
- ◆ On the second Sunday before Christmas, light the third candle. This candle named the Shepherd's Candle is purple. Verses to be shared are Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12; John 5:30-47.
- ◆ On the Sunday before Christmas, light the Angel's Candle, which is pink. Verses to read are Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:13-23; John 3:16-21.
- ◆ On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, light the Christ Candle, which is white. Select appropriate scriptural readings to focus on the birth of Christ.



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Home for Christmas - "Voices of the Season"

