SUNDAY GOSPEL STORIES · FOR SCHOOLS

Lead it yourselves

A class prayer planned and led by children · First Sunday of Advent · Mark 13:33-37

GETTING READY

- Share out three jobs: **Leader**, **Reader** and **Prayer leader**.
- Set the prayer table: a purple cloth, the Bible open at Mark 13, and the first candle of your Advent wreath (battery candles are fine).
- The Reader practises the Gospel out loud once before you begin.

1 GATHER

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent. We are waiting for Jesus. Let's be still and get ready to listen.

Light the first candle. Breathe slowly three times together.

2 LISTEN

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Read Mark 13:33-37 from the class Bible. Younger classes can watch the two-minute cartoon instead.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep a short silence. Sit still and let the story settle.

3 RESPOND

Leader: Why did the doorkeeper need to stay awake, even when the path looked empty?

Two or three people share an idea. There are no wrong answers.

Prayer leader: Jesus, you asked us to keep watch. We bring you our prayers.

- For our families, as we get ready for Christmas. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For people who are waiting and worried this week. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For our class, that we notice anyone who needs help. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Add a prayer of your own, written by your class.

All: Jesus, help us pay attention while we wait for you. Make our classroom a place where people feel welcome. Amen.

4 GO

Leader: This week, let's keep watch by doing one job before anyone has to ask.

Leader: Let us go in peace to watch and wait for Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

Put out the candle.

AFTERWARDS: HOW DID IT GO?

- Did everyone who had a job feel ready?
- Was the silence really still?
- What one thing will we change next time?

For teachers: in Reception and Key Stage 1, an adult helps the children lead. In Key Stage 2, the children plan and lead it, and the adult joins in.