

## Lesson Name: The Color Purple

### Opening Prayer:

While lighting the service candle

The Light and Peace of Jesus Christ is with us. *Thanks be to God.*

### Scripture Lesson:

*Daniel 5:29*-- Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed in purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made concerning him that he should rank third in the kingdom.

*John 19:2*-- And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.

### Story:

Everything is changed. It is now the time of the color purple.

Take out the purple felt underlayment and spread it out.

Purple is the color of kings and queens. No one could wear purple in those days except royal people. Roman citizens could wear a little stripe of purple, but that was all. Purple is a serious color, and something serious is about to happen. A king is coming, but he is not the kind of king that people thought was coming. This King had no army, no great house and no riches. This King was a baby who was born in a barn.

The King who was coming is still coming. This is full of mystery. You know, a mystery is hard to enter sometimes. That is why this time of Advent is so important. Sometimes people can walk right through a mystery and not even know it is there. This time of year you will see people hurrying in the shops buying things and doing this and that, but they will miss the Mystery. They don't know how to get ready, and maybe they just forgot.

The Church learned a long time ago that people need a way to get ready to enter or even come close to a Mystery like Christmas. The Church set aside four weeks to get ready. This is such a great Mystery that it takes that long to get ready. During this time, we are all on the way to Bethlehem.

We are all making the journey. We are all getting ready to enter the Mystery of Christmas, so let's go with the prophets, the Holy Family, the shepherds, the angels, the Magi and all the rest to make the journey that was not just back then. It is also now.

Place the advent wreath in the center of the underlayment and light the appropriate number of candles for this week.

Advent I – This is the candle of the Prophets.

Advent II – This is the candle of the Holy Family.

Advent III – This is the candle of the Shepherds. (rose candle)

Advent IV – This is the candle of the Wise Men.

After lighting the candles take a moment to enjoy them.

Let's enjoy the light.

**Hymn:** #101 "Away in a Manger"

**Lord's Prayer:**

The Lord be with You. *And also with you.* Let us pray.

**Our Father**, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Oh, God, you are so good.** You created this beautiful world full of color, and you gave us eyes to see it. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to show us real love. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, give us eyes to see Jesus as our king of love. *Amen.*