

Christian Education Bulletin Insert

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Remembrance Day, Nov11

School children will usually have experienced a Remembrance Day assembly before

Nov 11, often conducted by members of the Legion. Parents might take the opportunity to discuss this with them. Recall scenes of war they will most likely have seen on television in recent months. Reassure children that these scenes are a long way off but use the occasion to talk about the sadness and pain of war, how thankful we are to live in a safe place and our hope for peace in those areas where there is strife.

This may also be an appropriate time to talk about death to children, since it is much better to be open about the subject before they are faced with the death of someone close to them. Don't use terms such as "going on a long trip", "sleeping", or even "they lost their lives," as children may well take the words literally and become scared. Recall the death of a pet, or someone they may remember, and reminisce about the happy times when they were alive.

Talk about resurrection and what heaven and being with God might be like. You might ask your child what makes him/her happiest and suggest that those feelings might give us some small idea of heaven, or read the description of the Holy City in Revelation 21:10-27. Anglican House also has an excellent book by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, "For Heaven's Sake," ISBN 1580230547, \$26.95. In it a young child's grandfather dies and he tries to find out where heaven is.

November 28, Advent I

Little children may enjoy learning this song, sung to the tune "Twinkle, twinkle, little star."

*See the candle burning bright.
One by one each week we light.
Advent is the time to wait,*

Then it's time to celebrate.

*When the waiting time is through,
Christmas joy for me and you.*

At the beginning of the **church year** it would be good to talk with children about the church calendar. There is a diagram available on-line at www.seekerschurch.org/sermons/19971228.htm. This could be downloaded and coloured. It might also be fun to create your own family calendar of the church year. Make it like a clock (as on the website), or a one-year time line, or a one year calendar. Decide on appropriate symbols for each season and share out the drawing of these, which will later be cut out and pasted onto the large calendar.

Tell children that the liturgical seasons enable us to concentrate on one part of God's life with us at a time, over a period which may be several weeks long. Talk about the great festivals of the church, Christmas and Easter, and what they mean. Mention that each one is preceded by a time of preparation, and that Advent, which we have just begun, is the time of preparation for Christmas. Talk also about the colours associated with each season. There is an excellent book on the seasons of the church told through the eyes of church mice, 'Come Worship With Me' by Ruth Boling, ISBN 0-664-50045-5. \$30. This is a large format picture book with every other page in full colour. As a bonus, the last five pages are a colour glossary of church symbols. It would make a great gift which would last a long time. It is available through Anglican House, 693-2295, or angbk@nbnet.nb.ca.

Make sure your **Advent wreath** is ready to place on your dining or kitchen table on November 28. Children might be involved in decorating a simple Advent candle holder with greenery, real or artificial. Talk about how a candle is lit on the first Sunday in Advent and for the following week, and on the second Sunday a second candle is added to the first and so on, until, on Christmas Day, the white candle in the centre, the Christ candle, is lit. The growing light is a sign, in the middle of the darkest time of winter, that God's promised light, the light of the world, is about to be born.

For Fun A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.