

# Acts of Worship

## Virtue: Patience

### **Virtue to live by:**

I can wait. I have self-control and act calmly even when things are difficult.

### **Week 1 – theme – Being ready**

#### Gathering together

Focal point:

Purple cloth

Clock/timer

Advent wreath

#### Word

Matthew 24:36-44 No One Knows the Day and Hour

“No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows. The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. In the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; yet they did not realize what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes. At that time two men will be working in a field: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. Two women will be at a mill grinding meal: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. Watch out, then, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. If the owner of a house knew the time when the thief would come, you can be sure that he would stay awake and not let the thief break into his house. So then, you also must always be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.

#### Response to / Reflection on the Word

Play gentle music as children reflect... How can we be ready and prepare ourselves for Jesus, the light of the world? What virtue do we need to see in ourselves at this time? Patience.

#### Going forth

Discuss Advent promises – each child to make an advent promise. Discuss the advent calendar – something to do each day so that we are ready and on time. Display in the worship space to refer to throughout Advent.

#### Ideas for music:

Stay awake, be ready

Awake, awake the Lord is coming

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### **Week 2 – theme – change**

#### Gathering together

Focal point:

Purple cloth

Sand

Stone

Advent wreath

#### Word

Matthew 3:1-12

The Preaching of John the Baptist

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said,

"Someone is shouting in the desert,  
'Prepare a road for the Lord;  
make a straight path for him to travel!'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.

When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptized, he said to them, "You snakes—who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't think you can escape punishment by saying that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these rocks and make descendants for Abraham! The ax is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire. I baptize you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals.

## Acts of Worship

He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out.”

### Response to / Reflection on the Word

Focus on focal point symbols of the stone and sand – where has the sand come from? How long do you think it would take this stone to become sand? Some things take a long time to change, whereas some things can change quickly. What things do we need to change? Are they quick easy changes, or do we need to show patience as the change will take time?

### Going forth

Can you identify one thing you need to change in order to be ready for Jesus' coming? Be that change this coming week.

### Ideas for music:

Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Holy is His name  
Patience, Take That  
Be still for the presence of the Lord  
O come o come Emmanuel

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### **Week 3 – theme – seeing the joy in patience**

#### Gathering together

Focal point:

Purple cloth

Advent wreath

#### Word

Romans 12:12

Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.

#### Response to / Reflection on the Word

Talk how we appreciate the here and now, we wait with joy and hope. Link to the previous act of worship and the changes we are making – rejoice in the changes that we have already made, through our advent promises.

#### Going forth

Encourage the children to continue to work on their changes/promises.

#### Ideas for music:

Rejoice, rejoice the Lord is coming

Rejoice in the Lord always

Sing it in the valleys

You shall go out with joy

My lighthouse, Rend Collective