



## Special Divine Service Guide for Children's Service – Advent

### Advent is Waiting for Jesus

#### [PPT Slides](#)

#### Guiding Bible Verse:

*Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. – Luke 10:39*

**Message:** “Advent is waiting for Jesus - His coming and His return!”

#### Minister's Background Notes:

#### Key Point:

Children feel the excitement and bustling activity of the period leading up to Christmas. Our Bible text encourages us to listen carefully to Jesus. The story of Mary and Martha is not intended to condemn activity, but to raise awareness of what is important, especially in a time that is so noisy, busy, and hectic. This attitude opens our eyes to Jesus' return.

#### Application for Children:

- There are so many special things they do in preparation for Christmas: making Christmas crafts and presents, singing Christmas carols, visiting family members.
- These activities bring us and others a lot of joy.
- But sometimes there is so much going on in the days before Christmas that we forget the real reason we are preparing and waiting.

#### Supporting Bible Story: **Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)**

While the minister tells this story, older children, youth, young adults, could act out the scene between Mary, Martha, and Jesus.

### **Bible Story Key Points:**

- Jesus is happy about both, namely those who busy themselves with good things and those who listen. He wants us to listen to Him so we know when to listen and when to serve.
  - Sometimes, and in this case during the season of Advent, we forget to listen. With all the things that need to be done, it can easily happen that we forget who it is we are expecting.
  - Advent is not just the period leading up to Christmas. The festive season is also a period of preparation that encourages us to reflect on the return of Christ.
  - Jesus has promised that He will return. Even though we do not know when this will be, we can prepare ourselves for this already today by listening to Jesus, by valuing His word, and by serving others.
- 

### **Children's Service Outline:**

#### **Opening Activity: Busy, Busy**

**Materials:** pencils, paper (1 of each for each child) on seats in the sanctuary

- Welcome the children and then ask them to create a list of all of the things they need to do before Christmas.
- Give them 1-2 minutes to create their list. After 2 minutes let several children share things on their lists and encourage them to share only things, not things already mentioned.
- End with saying how very busy everyone is and how all these things are good and will bring joy, but that they could become a distraction from how we should spend our time during Advent.

**Bible Story:** (if you have actors to act out the story, ask them to come up front at this time)

- Read the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42 NLT or let the actors recreate the story for the congregation.
- Thank the actors and then have them return to their seats.

**Music:** During this transition, a musical piece could be played or sung

---

## Discussion Questions:

### Understanding the Story

- What was Mary doing when Jesus came to visit?
- What was Martha doing when Jesus came?
- How did Jesus respond when Martha was upset about Mary?

### Thinking About Yourself

- Raise your hand if you are more like Mary. Why do you feel this way?
- Raise your hand if you are more like Martha. Why do you feel this way?
- Is one way better than the other?
- Have you ever been really busy and missed spending quiet time with God?
- How do you feel when you take time to pray or listen to God?
- Have you ever been sitting quiet when you should have been helping someone?
- How do you feel when you help someone?

### Everyday Life

- How can you help others *and* still spend time with God?
- What's one way you can "sit with Jesus" this week, even for a few minutes?
- What's one way you can serve or help someone this week, even for a few minutes?

### Deeper Thinking (Simple Version)

- Do you think Jesus was upset with Martha for helping or for being worried? What can we learn from that?
- Why do you think it's important to spend time with God and listen to Him?
- Why do you think it's important to help and serve others?

### Closing Thoughts:

- Jesus is happy with both kinds of people, those who work hard to do good things and those who take time to listen to Him.
  - Sometimes, especially during Advent, we get so busy with everything we have to do that we forget to stop and listen. We forget who we are waiting for.
  - Advent isn't just the time before Christmas. It's also a special time to get ready in our hearts and think about Jesus coming back.
  - Jesus promised He will come back. We don't know exactly when, but we can start getting ready today by listening to Him, paying attention to His words, and spending time with Him, just like Mary did, and helping to serve others, just like Martha did.
-

**Music:** During this transition, a musical piece could be played or sung.

Continue with preparation for Holy Communion and the liturgy for the remainder of the divine service.

---

**Musical Suggestions:**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - H523*

*Away in a Manger - H533 -534*

*Come Gather Ye Children – H537*

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child – H540*

*Go Tell it on the Mountain – H542*

## Serve and Listen:

The following activity could be done after the Children’s Service or during a special fellowship.

This activity has **four stations**, each teaching part of the story and connecting to Advent. Children rotate through the stations in small groups (10–15 minutes each).

---

### 1. Martha’s Busy Workshop

**Focus:** Being busy can be good when we’re serving others.

**Setup:**

- Tables with mini “busy” tasks: folding napkins, stacking cups, decorating paper “cookies,” sorting colored beads.
- Play upbeat music and have a timer for 1 minute of work bursts.

**Activity:**

Each group completes as many “helping” tasks as they can in the time limit. Then pause and ask:

- How did it feel to be busy?
- Did you notice anyone talking to you while you were working?

**Discussion Point:**

Martha was doing something good—serving Jesus—but she forgot to pause and be with Him. Sometimes we need to stop the busyness to focus on Jesus.

---

### 2. Mary’s Listening Corner

**Focus:** Listening to Jesus helps us grow closer to Him.

**Setup:**

- Cozy area with soft lighting, blankets, and a candle or Advent wreath.
- Read the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38–42) slowly and calmly.

**Activity:**

After hearing the story, give each child a small heart cutout and have them write or draw one way they can “listen to Jesus” this Advent (examples: praying, reading a Bible story, singing to Him, being kind).

**Discussion Point:**

Mary chose to listen. Jesus said that was the *better* choice in that moment. Listening helps us remember *why* we do all our busy things!

---

**3. The Balance Challenge**

**Focus:** Finding the right time for both action and stillness.

**Setup:**

- Create an obstacle course or relay (representing “busy”) followed by a “quiet zone” (representing “listening”).

**Activity:**

- Half the group starts by doing the course (run, jump, toss a beanbag, etc.).
- When they finish, they sit quietly in the “listening zone” for 30 seconds while soft music or a quiet reflection prompt plays (e.g., “Think about something you want to thank Jesus for today.”).
- Switch roles.

**Discussion Point:**

Sometimes we need to *move and serve*, and sometimes we need to *pause and pray*. Both are part of loving Jesus.

---

**4. Advent Reflection Craft: “My Advent Balance Wreath”**

**Focus:** Putting it all together.

**Materials:**

- Paper plates, green construction paper leaves, glue, crayons, and four “candles” (paper strips).
- Label two candles “Listen” and two candles “Serve.”

**Activity:**

Children decorate their wreath and write one way they can *listen to Jesus* and one way they can *serve others* each week of Advent.

**Discussion Point:**

Just like the Advent candles remind us that Christmas is coming, this wreath reminds us that we need both busy hands and a quiet heart as we prepare for Jesus’ birth.

---

## **Closing Reflection**

Gather everyone together. Light (or display) an Advent wreath and say:

“Mary and Martha both loved Jesus. Martha showed it by serving. Mary showed it by listening. This Advent, let’s remember that both are important, but listening to Jesus helps us know *when* to serve and *how* to love.”