

D/G CIRCUS SPECTACULAR: A DESIGN

SESSION 70: "THE CHRISTMAS PRESENCE" (cf "PRESENTS") (a *tableau for Advent: the Parousia*)

BIBLICAL BASIS: 1 John 2:28 – "And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence...at his coming."

2 Peter 3:12 – "Waiting for and hastening the coming day of God...."

James 5:7 – "Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord."

see also: Mark 13:32; Matthew 24:36

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 13:32 – "But of that day...no one knows...but only the Father."

RESOURCES: IDB, v.3, pp658-60; "EncycLC," v.N-Z, p 2149; Harvey, "Handbook," pp174-76; "Augsburg Confession," Art. XVII; Channing Bete, "We Can Learn About Advent" (with stickers).

PROJECT: doing activities in "We Can Learn About Advent"

AVAILABLE TIME: @30 minutes.

PURPOSE: to help students learn of the Second Advent of Jesus, the Parousia, and the eschaton that comes in love, not fear and war.

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1. Calliope plays one verse of "The Advent of Our God," G#22.
 2. Kids dismissed with the "big ticket."
 3. All kids welcomed/admitted.
 4. 3-ring action including:

RING 1

CENTER RING

RING 2

D/G VIDEO PLAYING:
"Cousin Barney"

ASK: What's coming?

(KIDS RESPOND)

SAY: Yes, Christmas.

ASK: What are you hoping to get for Christmas?
As a present?

(KIDS RESPOND)

SAY: Yes, it is a really exciting time of year.

Filled with excitement,
...expectation.
And for us as
Christians, we're
...excited,
...expectant and
...hopeful for another
reason.

ASK: Can you think of what
that reason might
be?
Another kind of
present?

(KIDS RESPOND)

SAY: Yes. Jesus' coming.
Again.
In a season the
church calls:
Advent.

(MOVE TO CENTER
RING)

SAY: Advent means "coming."
Say "advent" with me.

(ALL SAY "ADVENT" TOGETHER)

(PASS OUT: "WE CAN LEARN ABOUT ADVENT"
FOR KIDS TO DO AS YOU CONTINUE WITH
THE FOLLOWING LESSON POINTS)

SAY: Advent is a time in the church when we
prepare to remember Jesus' birth in
Bethlehem,
...to receive him anew in our
hearts and
...to look for his coming again
in a future time. That's called
the PAROUSIA.

Now that's a big word.
Ever hear it before?

(KIDS RESPOND)

SAY: Say it with me.

(ALL SAY TOGETHER: PAROUSIA)

SAY: Great. Parousia is a Greek word that means:
... "presence" no, not "presents" but
... "presence" or
... "one with you," or
... "in attendance with," or
... "the making known of" (cf 2 Thessalonians
2:8; 1 Timothy 6:14; et al), and refers to
... Jesus coming again "to be with us again,"
... in real life again,
... in a time we wait for,
... coming in a future
time we don't know when.

BUT, we wait.

Like waiting for Christmas, and
... opening presents.

And that time we wait for is called:

... the Second Advent, or
... the Second Coming, or
... waiting for the presence of Jesus
to come again,
... the, here's that word again,
... what is it?

(KIDS RESPOND)

... let's say it together,
... PAROUSIA.

ASK: Do you know when that will be?

(KIDS RESPOND)

SAY: Yes, we don't know.

Some people say they know,
... BUT ... they don't.

No one knows.

Jesus says he doesn't even know
when that will be, only the Father
knows.

(READ: MARK 13:32)

And so we wait and
... watch.

And he will come to be with us again,
... for that is his name:
... Emmanuel.

And that's a Hebrew word that
means: "God with us" (cf
Matthew 1:23).

"In the flesh," he will come.
Just as he did in Jesus before,
...in Bethlehem,
...as a baby,
...in peace and love, not as
some other people think:
...in all sorts of bad things,
...scary things.

And, come to think of it, he just might be
here already wherever love is.

Now, there's a real Christmas presence.

(CLOSE WITH ECHO PRAYER:

Loving Father, let your Christmas
presence be with
us always. Amen.)