



# First Sunday of Advent

## Matthew 24:37-44

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

## Some things to think about...

In this Gospel reading, Jesus tells his disciples to be ready for when he returns. We also need to remember to live out Jesus' teachings each day and be ready too.

Think about how you as Mini Vinnies could prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas.

## Activities

Make a list of things that you will do to prepare yourself for Jesus' coming at Christmas.

With your group, complete the **"Wreath Making"** activity on the Mini Vinnies website and write how you will prepare for Jesus on each leaf.

## Teacher's Notes

Advent is a special time of preparation. It is a time that we use to celebrate our anticipation of Jesus' birth. We use an Advent wreath to mark the four weeks of Advent. The colours of advent are either purple or blue and pink, with the circular evergreen wreath symbolising eternal life and God's unity.

The lighting of each candle signifies the accumulating light leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ; who is the light of the World. We prepare for Christmas by doing what God wills us to do, for example, doing what parents or teachers ask, helping younger siblings, being patient and giving gifts to those who would otherwise go without at Christmas (e.g. a parish giving tree; SVP Christmas Appeal).

Your local parish or SVP Conference (group) may have a giving tree and the children may be able to bring in food and/or gifts to contribute to this. Get them to think about what they would like to receive when they are thinking about gifts.

Look out for the Mini Vinnies Reverse **Advent Calendar** too.

## Notes:
