

Activity	Notes
<p>Leaders/Helpers/Parents Dig In Read: Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 3:1-6 In This Passage: This week, the readings and addition to the Nativity display acknowledge the process of getting ready. We think about things in our lives that need to be ‘made smoother’ – but also, things in the world, the valleys and rocky paths, the injustices, and difficult things that we can work to straighten out to make the paths for the Kingdom. Today, there is a path added to our display and we will add sheep and shepherds who journeyed towards the newborn baby.</p> <p>Memory verse: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.” Luke 3:1-6</p> <p>Note to leaders/helpers: This week is our last week of Sunday School for the year, and all leaders and helpers are invited to be part of the celebration. We will be flipping the service upside down, and so we will start with the children in Sunday School in the Hall, and then move into the auditorium for some songs, prayers, and communion after our lesson.</p> <p>For Sunday School we will use a similar format to normal, sitting in groups for sharing highs, lows, buffalos, a game, talking about what we have learned this year, playing a game, and then a short lesson on “getting ready” based on Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6. During the lesson we will put together a “path” and some shepherds and sheep to add to the nativity tree that will be in the worship space. In our groups, while we are Sharing and Talking and reflecting on our year, we will share some food and sit around tables on the carpet or cushions to make it a bit special.</p> <p>The Sharing and lesson plan is below. The game is one we have played this year already.</p>	<p>Read before lesson in preparation</p>
<p>WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Leaders / Children • ‘Rule of 5’ & COVID safe reminders <p><i>Its week 2 of Advent! And our last week of Sunday School. Last week we talked about anticipating... what we are looking forward to and built a tree with our prayers of hope and anticipation. This week, we’ll talk about how Advent is about getting ready, and smoothing the way for ourselves and others to experience peace. The Bible is full of bits of looking forwards – and lots of bits about getting ready for what was coming.</i></p> <p><i>In Luke chapter 3, we read the story about John the Baptist, who was Jesus’ prophet cousin. He was preparing the way for Jesus. What he said to the people, was like preparing a road towards Jesus. And today we will add a path to the tree, with some signs to lead the way.</i></p> <p>Put out parts of the road signs and work together to put them in the correct order Read John 3:1-6 from the road signs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What do you think it means to “prepare the way for the Lord” and “make straight paths for him”?</i> <p><i>Today there is a path added to our nativity display in the worship space, but it is missing something... these road signs. Which we will put together and then add to the space when we go into worship a bit later</i></p>	<p>Sanitise hands on way in</p> <p>Children and group leaders/helper seated around low tables with food and drink</p>
<p>SHARING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In groups, introduce each other and SHARE <i>highs, lows & buffalos</i> (buffalos being something weird or funny or strange that has happened lately) <i>about Sunday School or your life this year.</i> 	<p>SS helpers record attendance</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about SHARE questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What have you learned in Sunday School this year?</i> ○ <i>What was your favourite or your least favourite activity or thing we did in Sunday School?</i> ○ <i>What are you looking forward to most for Christmas and next year?</i> 	
<p>GAME - Faithful Memories <i>In the story of Noah, which we learned about earlier this year, and this week on our Jesse Tree, Noah welcomed pairs of animals onto the ark. Let's play a memory game where we'll locate pairs of animals in our room!</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form small groups and give each group a set of cards from the "Remember Game" handout. 2. Lay out cards facedown without peeking at them. 3. Take turns to turn over two cards. If the cards are a match, keep the cards and choose again. If the cards aren't a match, flip the cards back over so the next person can have a turn. 4. Play until all cards have been matched. Most pairs of matched cards at the end wins! <p>Talk About: <i>As we played this game, we had faith that even if we didn't find it right away, a matching card was out there.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>How is trusting that there's a matching card in our game like having faith in God?</i> ○ <i>How is it different?</i> <p><i>We fight evil with faith. Sometimes faith requires patience. When we look for God, we learn more about his promises to us. There may be disappointments along the way, but God is always faithful to us. But unlike our game, faith isn't about random guesses. We can always be sure in our faith in God!</i></p>	<p>Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Remember Game" (in SS box) <p>Prep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix up cards <p><i>NB. Older group will put together Road signs instead of playing the game.</i></p>
<p>BIBLE DISCOVERY - Getting Ready - Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 3:1-6</p> <p><i>In the Christmas story, we think a lot about the people who came to meet Jesus. But it is interesting to think about this verse, and how God is talking about making paths straight and mountains flattened as a highway for God to be known on – a highway for God so that everyone can see God's salvation. This passage might be used as an encouragement to do some landscape gardening! To encourage us to look at the way that we come towards God, and the way that we encourage others to try to come towards God.</i></p> <p><i>Spend time reflecting on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What are some ways that the paths can be made straight and the rough roads, smoothed, so that God can be seen more clearly?</i> ○ <i>What things in your life are barriers to you experiencing God's Love and Peace?</i> ○ <i>What are some things that you or others do that form barriers to people experiencing God's love and Peace? In church? At home? At work or school?</i> <p>Have a think – it might be something in your life you need to straighten out, maybe an expectation that you've placed on someone else, maybe the ways that we expect people to behave or think in church or at home, It might be conflict with people you care about, think about tricky things that could be smoother...</p> <p><i>As you do, you can colour and write your reflections on these shepherds, and sheep and then add them to the path and tree in the worship space.</i></p>	<p>Supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • Shepherd & sheep cut outs (attached)
<p>PRAY & BLESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for and with each other. Pray about your highs, lows and buffalos. • Ask God to help you follow him. • Bless each other. <p><i>God of highways in the wilderness, help us to find ways to make the paths straight and the rough places smooth. Help us to identify and prepare ways for you to be seen and known in the world. Amen</i></p>	

