



29 November – 5 December 2020

Play and think about how we can watch for signs of God in difficult times.

Sit together in the dark and start a timer on your watch/phone. See if anyone can guess when a minute has passed. If they are wrong by more than five seconds, begin again. Do this until someone gets it right, or until you can make the point that time seems to stretch on and on when we are waiting. Talk together about examples of some difficult times people have to wait through, you can also talk about the current situation.

Now read the story together then explore it using these activities.

## Play

Print off or draw some pictures of the signs of God's coming from Mark's Gospel, e.g. a sun and moon crossed out, the stars falling, and hide these around the room. Ask everyone to see how many signs of God's coming they can find.

## Create

Draw some glasses onto thick card and then decorate them in Advent purple. Use the glasses as a reminder to help us keep watch for signs of God coming.

## Praise

Light the first candle on your Advent wreath (or just light one candle, with three unlit), as you sing (to the tune of 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'):

Light the Advent candle one,  
shining brightly as the sun.  
We are watching for the Lord.  
We believe and trust his word.  
Light the Advent candle one,  
shining brightly as the sun.

## Pray

Make the room dark and gather together around a candle. Spend some time in quiet, watching the flame of the candle.

## Bible story Mark 13.24-37



Sit in a circle and practise actions for: 'watch' (*make glasses with fingers round eyes*), 'listen' (*cup hands round ears*) and 'ready' (*stand to attention*). Use these actions as you tell the story together.

**W**atch! Listen! Be ready!  
Jesus told us that he is coming back, but we don't know when that is going to happen. Jesus wants us to watch for the signs that he is coming, to listen, and to get ourselves ready for his return.  
Watch! Listen! Be ready!

## Through the week

Work together to write a letter to yourselves about something that is bothering you as a family. It could be anything from a problem in school to a global issue.

Seal the letters in envelopes and put them somewhere safe. Challenge each other to pray about what you have written down. Plan to open them at Christmas, reread what you have written and think about how God has been at work in that situation.