

**Meaningful Chocolate 2018
Resources for Advent
for Schools and Churches**

Assembly Title 1:

A Special Countdown

KS1-2

(Ages 5-11)

NOTES

to accompany Powerpoint presentation

Aim: To explain what Advent is and why it's good to have time to prepare for Christmas

These notes explore:

1. How 'waiting' can be difficult but positive
2. The real name of the countdown to Christmas
3. What Advent means
4. How to use The Real Advent Calendar as part of the countdown to Christmas

There is also a short reflection on Advent

Resources:

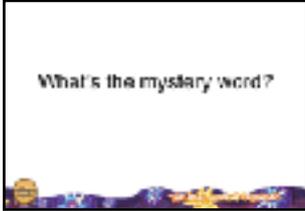
The PowerPoint to accompany these notes can be downloaded from
www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/resources

Technical:

Please familiarise yourself with the presentation beforehand and make any adjustments necessary. The fonts used are Arial or Helvetica.



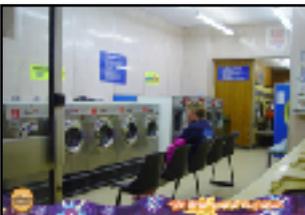
Welcome



Explain that there is a word that describes what people are doing in the next few pictures. Can they guess what it is?



Slide shows an airport. Ask the children what is happening in the photograph and where they think people are going. Are they happy or sad?



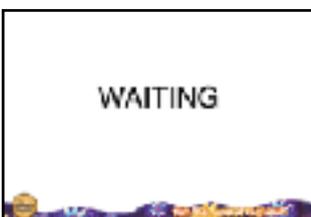
Slide shows a lady in a laundrette. Ask the children what is happening in the photograph and ask if they think the person is thinking or bored or lonely?



Slide shows a (very) pregnant lady. Ask what she might be thinking.



Slide 6 shows someone sitting on a sofa. What do you think he is doing and why? What might he be thinking?



Ask what the mystery word is. I'm sure most children will have guessed that everyone is WAITING for something.



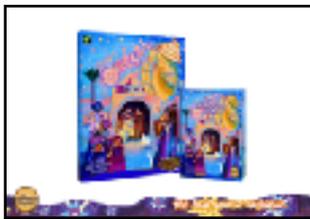
Every year we count down 24 days to someone's birthday.

Does anyone know who's birthday it is?

Here's a clue!



And another clue... Does anyone know what we call the special object which we use to countdown to Christmas? Last year you might have had a Paddington Bear or a Peppa Pig one or a Lego Star Wars or Playmobile one. Some of you will be lucky to have a home-made one. Have you guessed? Usually it's your mum and dad or carer or maybe grandparents who give you it. Ask the children what they think it might be?



Why do you think some Advent Calendars like the Real Advent Calendar have pictures of angels and wise men and baby Jesus on them? Make the point that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus.

You could ask if they know who all the characters are and why they are there and explain that they will get to know more about the characters throughout Advent.



This slide has 3 'pop-up' transitions with the following text:

ADVENT

- Meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'
- Season leading up to Christmas
- Four Sundays before Christmas (starts 2nd December 2018)

24 days to remind ourselves that Jesus was born? That's a long time isn't it?

But 2,000 years ago (and that really is a long time) Mary and Joseph, the wise men, angels and shepherds all celebrated a new born King that their world had been looking forward to for two thousand years before that!



Jesus' life and His message captured the hearts and minds of people in a way that has changed our world, then and now. So we have found all sorts of traditions to help us prepare and remind ourselves of the first Christmas. Some people light a candle every week of December with the final candle being lit on Christmas

Day, we have nativity scenes that tell the Christmas Story, there are special foods and biscuits, and of course presents. We sing songs called Carols and special prayers are said and sometimes people go without food (which is called fasting) to help prepare. We try to remember those who are hungry or homeless or don't have family too. It's all part of remembering that Jesus came to share God's love with the world.

So! 24 days to wait and prepare for Jesus' birthday!



There are all sorts of ways to prepare. You might do something good for someone, send a charity Christmas card to a friend or say a prayer each day. And we are all going to share the story of Christmas each day with our Real Advent calendar to remind us how Jesus came to us at Christmas to share God's love for us.



Dear Jesus

Thank you for coming into our world as a baby. Thank you that the angels told us that you would bring peace.

Help us to enjoy the wait for Christmas, to understand the Christmas story better and to use it to prepare ourselves and bring peace and enjoyment to others.

Amen