

WAIT FOR IT

A Life Night on Advent

LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

GOAL FOR THE LIFE NIGHT

Help teens understand the purpose of Advent and what Christ is calling them to as they prepare for Christmas. This night will give them practical, concrete ways to pray the four weeks of Advent.

LIFE NIGHT AT A GLANCE

This night is a great way to introduce the season of Advent and help teens prepare for the coming of Christ. The first half of the night is spent celebrating the new liturgical year by having a New Year's party. The party should get the teens excited and wound up. The excitement and anticipation should be built up and culminate into the ball drop where the "power goes out" before reaching the New Year. This excitement and anticipation sets up the teaching on what the season of Advent is and how we enter into the anticipation of both the first and second coming of Christ. In small groups, teens will be able to make New Year's resolutions by finding four concrete ways they can pray and prepare for Christ's coming. They will receive an Advent wreath they can place somewhere they can see it everyday. The Life Night will end by using Scripture to reflect on how God's promises to us are fulfilled in Christ.

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Invite teens to the party by creating an invitation to pass out to the teens before Mass giving them all the details - time, location, name of band playing, free food, etc. Have the Core members pass out the invitations to all teens as they enter the Church for Mass.

ENVIRONMENT

What better way to celebrate the new liturgical year than by throwing a New Year's party? The room should be set up for a party. The walls should be decked out with purple and pink streamers, Christmas lights should be strung across the room, games should be available for teens to play, and food for snacking while they socialize. If possible, have a band playing music. There should also be a typical New Year's scene with a makeshift ball drop and a booth for commentators set up at the front of the room. This will be used in the Gather.

GATHER *25 Minutes*

PARTY (20 min)

Allow the teens to socialize, eat and play games. Have classic games like Monopoly, Connect Four, Chutes and Ladders, Apples to Apples, and decks of cards available as well as video games such as Dance, Dance, Revolution (DDR). Have a band playing music and a dance floor where teens can dance. During all of this the Core members should walk around and yelling "Happy New Year" and asking teens what their New Year's resolutions are.

COUNTDOWN (5 min)

After most teens are finished eating, call everyone together for the New Year's countdown. Have two Core members as commentators for the countdown and ball drop, talking about the highlights of the last year and the excitement for the upcoming year. They should also welcome any new teens during the commentary. After the new teens are welcomed, hype up the crowd for the countdown. Have a makeshift ball drop - Core Members on a ladder passing down a big ball and the numbers projected on the screen - that moves for the countdown. Begin the countdown with everyone yelling "10..9..8..7..6..5..4..3..2..!" At "2" the power should go out and everyone left in the dark, never getting to "Happy New Year!" After the power outage, have all the teens sit down and wait a few moments in darkness.

PROCLAIM *10 minutes*

ADVENT TALK (10 min)

This talk will explain the liturgical season of Advent and the reason we have it. The teaching will focus on how to truly anticipate the coming of Christ as well as explain the tradition and meaning of the Advent wreath.

I. Advent: Season of waiting

- Ask the teens how many of them are frustrated and confused by what just happened
- Tonight we are talking about Advent, our liturgical New Year. The Church celebrates Advent as the beginning of the new liturgical year.

