

# Advent Box Background for Teachers



## About the Advent Box:

The Advent Box is a small box that is passed around from family to family, via students in your class, that inspires families to share in the spirit of Advent. This box contains a small wreath, 4 *Advent* candles, a prayer for each week of the Advent season, and a story for parents to read to/with their children. The box is passed from family to family throughout Advent and returned to the teacher once all families have completed the activities in the box. The option to participate is completely the choice of the children and parents.

## Directions:

- Send out an introductory *newsletter* explaining the Advent Box activity to parents (the box is returned to school each day and is passed on to the next student);
- For a class of 25 or more participating students, I recommend that you create 3/4 Advent boxes; you will need to collect 3/5 Christmas boxes (shoeboxes decorated with Christmas paper or small boxes purchased at the local dollar store).
- Create a class list of students who will be participating; post it in your classroom and check off as each family receives the box;
- Purchase these *ingredients*: 3 purple/blue votive candles and 1 white/pink votive candle; small artificial evergreen wreath.

## To Do List For The Teacher: (Preparations)

- Cover the outside of a shoe box (lid and box) with Christmas wrapping paper;
- Place a small, undecorated evergreen wreath (they are inexpensive and can be purchased from White Rose, Dollar Stores, etc.) in the box;
- Purchase 3 small (self-standing) purple and 1 pink/white votive candles (parents will place these around the wreath, and light the appropriate candle/s depending on the week they receive the box);
- Print on Stock Cover Paper (available at Staples or Walmart and laminate the four individual Prayer Cards; place in the box.
- Print the *Stranger Child Legend* on stock paper, laminate and place in the box.

Each night, a student takes the box home and returns to school the following day so that the next student on the list can take the box home . . . and the routine continues.