



What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Vertical Edge • Tuesday, December 10 • Advent #2**
One of the most significant aspects of VE are the passionate young adult leaders! Tonight we will be continuing our celebration of Advent and Josh Ryall, who graduated from Columbia Bible College with a Worship Arts/Youth Ministry degree will be sharing the impact that observing Advent has had on his own walk with Jesus. Bring a friend & some change because Checkers will be open! 7:00-9:00pm in West Court.



december 7/8 lesson

- Series:** The Messiah
- Lesson:** The Messiah—He Who Heals Us
- Scripture:** 2 Chronicles 7:11-14; Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:1-8; 18-34
- Key Concept:** Jesus' healing ministry precisely fulfilled Old Testament Messianic prophecies and identified Him as God's anointed one



Chew Time

- Read Luke 5:12-39





What's Advent is all about?

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power.

The Advent wreath is a circular evergreen wreath (real or artificial) with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. Since the wreath is symbolic and a vehicle to tell the Christmas story, there are various ways to understand the symbolism.

The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The **green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. **Candles** symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son.

The **colors of the candles** vary with different traditions, but there are usually three purple or blue candles, corresponding to the sanctuary colors of Advent, and one pink or rose candle.

The light of the candles itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others

The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. As the candles are lighted over the four week period, it also symbolizes the darkness of fear and hopelessness receding and the shadows of sin falling away as more and more light is shed into the world. The flame of each new candle reminds the worshippers that something is happening, and that more is yet to come. Finally, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle is lighted at Christmas, and worshippers rejoice over the fact that the promise of long ago has been realized.

Themes:

- Candle 1. Hope
- Candle 2. Peace
- Candle 3. Joy (rose)
- Candle 4. Love
- Candle 5. Christ (white)

Today's Lesson: The Messiah—He Who Heals Us

Today we are going to look how Jesus, the Messiah, came to be the “One who Heals Us.” All throughout Jesus' ministry, He healed people of their sicknesses and physical problems. However, physical healings wasn't the ultimate healing He planned on doing. His ultimate goal was to heal the sin problem that all of us experience”.



1) Read **2 Chronicles 7:11-14**

† *11 So Solomon finished the Temple of the Lord, as well as the royal palace. He completed everything he had planned to do in the construction of the Temple and the palace. 12 Then one night the Lord appeared to Solomon and said,*

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. 13 At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. 14 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

- A. What motivates you to complete your homework? (*Grades, parents' expectations, wanting to succeed, etc.*)
 - B. When you are given something to do that you don't want to do, what motivates you to do it? (*Parents' demands, allowance or some other award, etc.*)
 - C. What is something that you need to be motivated to do? What is something that doesn't take any motivation to do?
 - D. The Lord kind of gave Solomon a "heads up." He told Solomon that when He doesn't let it rain or when He causes locusts to devour the land or send a plague, there was something that the people could do. What was it that the Lord said for His people to do? (*Humble themselves, pray, seek the Lord, and turn from their wicked ways*)
- As we shift gears and move to the New Testament, we are going to look at three different accounts of Jesus healing others. Try to pick up on the reoccurring themes or acts of the people involved in the accounts.

2) Read **Matthew 9:1-8**

† *Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. 2 Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven."*

3 But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?"

4 Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? 6 So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

7 And the man jumped up and went home! 8 Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for sending a man with such great authority.

- A. What was the attitude of the men who brought the paralytic to Jesus to be healed? (*They believed that Jesus could heal the man, they had great faith, they cared about their friend*)
- B. What was the attitude of the teachers of the law? (*They said that Jesus was blaspheming, they didn't think that He could do what He said He could do.*)
- C. What was Jesus' response to the teachers of the law? (*He called their thoughts evil, He questioned them*)
- D. What did Jesus do to prove that He had the authority to forgive sins? (*He healed the man and told him to get up and walk.*)
- E. What was the reaction of the crowd? (*They were filled with awe; they praised God.*)

3) Read **Matthew 9:18-26**

- ✠ ¹⁸ As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.”
- ¹⁹ So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. ²⁰ Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, ²¹ for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”
- ²² Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was healed at that moment.
- ²³ When Jesus arrived at the official’s home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. ²⁴ “Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! ²⁶ The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

- A. What was the attitude of the ruler who came to Jesus? (He had faith that Jesus could raise his daughter from the dead.)
- B. What was the attitude of the woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years? (She believed that if she could just touch a part of Jesus’ clothes, she would be healed.)
- C. What was the attitude of the crowd that was at the ruler’s house after Jesus told them to leave? (They laughed at Him.)
- D. What healed both of these people? (Their faith in Jesus and His ability to heal them.)
- E. How long did it take for the people to be healed when they put their faith in Jesus? (At the moment that they touched Him.)

4) Read **Matthew 9:27-34**

- ✠ ²⁷ After Jesus left the girl’s home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”
- ²⁸ They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, “Do you believe I can make you see?”
- “Yes, Lord,” they told him, “we do.”
- ²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” ³⁰ Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, “Don’t tell anyone about this.” ³¹ But instead, they went out and spread his fame all over the region.
- ³² When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn’t speak was brought to Jesus. ³³ So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. “Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!” they exclaimed. ³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons.”

- A. What was the attitude of the two blind men? (They believed in Jesus and that He could heal them.)
- B. What was the attitude of the Pharisees after Jesus drove out the demon? (They believed that it was by the prince of demons that Jesus drove it out. They didn’t want to acknowledge that Jesus had the power to do that.)
- C. Compare all the accounts of healing that you just read about. What is it that all of the people who were healed have in common? (They all had faith that Jesus could heal them.)
- D. Why do you think that Matthew recorded these different instances of healing? (Because it gives us a variety of things that people needed healed from.)
- E. What can we learn from these accounts that Matthew records and how can we apply it to our lives today? (That no matter what we need healing from Jesus Christ has the power to heal us.)