

December 4, 2022

# PLAYING PRETEND

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

The Season of Advent invites us into wild possibilities of tiny buds of hope. Together and apart, we consider how these buds grow in and through our everyday living.



The prophet Isaiah leads us into the Season of Advent, offering visions of a world of peace and harmony and a child leading the way forward. We join Mary in her song of justice and joy, hear the promise of a child from Joseph's point of view and take courage from Joseph's example of faithful living in troubled times.

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This week, Isaiah invites us into a wild possibility of tiny buds of hope and animals finding harmony together on God's holy mountain, and we see its power through a child-like lens.

## Cultivating and Dreaming Together

**Read** [Isaiah 11:1–10](#) or **listen** to the audio story "[God's Mountain](#)" or **gather** around as someone tells the story "[Another Message of Peace](#)" in this week's Exploring Our Faith.

The vision the prophet offers dreams of how lands might be governed with peace and justice. The vision pictures a different kind of community where power dynamics have shifted, where space is intentionally made for one another, where leaders come from unexpected places, and where there is beauty, peace, justice, and equity in what God has created.

- **The vision focuses on animals in creation. What parallels might exist with how humans relate to one another?**

**Watch** Jane Goodall share her story about [Sowing the Seeds of Hope](#) to remember how hope persists. Reflect on a dream that never gave up on you.

## Act, Play, Share, Make

**Act** out the vision of all animals living together in [Isaiah 11:6–9](#) using finger puppets or stuffed animals. Don't have the right animals? Make your own [finger puppets](#).

**Play** with a large cardboard box. How many different things could this one object become in your imagination? Remember [how important pretend play is for kids](#).

**Share** in creating space for each other by creating [your own family house rules](#).

**Make** a [Walking Stick](#) on this week's activity sheet.



## During the Week

### Have a family game night

Play isn't just good for little kids – it's good for the whole family to share in fun and silliness. [Find inspiration for your game night here.](#)

### Light a candle of hope

The word “pretend” means “behave so as to make it appear that something is the case when in fact it is not.” Embrace this possibility by lighting a candle – or lots of candles – and sharing the things that you want to believe to be true. You might choose to conclude this sharing by singing “[Hope Is a Candle](#)”.

### Look to the Animals

Take your walking stick on a walk up a hill, mountain or just around the neighbourhood. Pay special attention to the animals you see. Look for what they might teach you about hope and community.

### Prayer

Play with us, O God,  
each and every day  
so that we might find new ways  
to live in your hope. Amen.

**Listen** to the song “Hope Is a Candle” (MP3 available [here](#) for purchase and download).  
**Visit** [Lecton Connection](#) for current events that connect with this week's scriptures.

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