

AN INTERGENERATIONAL ART
CURRICULUM FOR ADVENT-EPIPHANY

Introduction to the Curriculum

Curriculum and projects designed
by Rev. Anna Strickland



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

OVERVIEW

This intergenerational art curriculum contains seven small art projects, one for each of the weekly scriptures and sub-themes in the *From Generation to Generation...* bundle of resources for Advent-Epiphany. Each individual curriculum includes: materials, preparation, instructions, and connection to the theme, as well as ideas for how you might integrate these projects into the life of your church. Use the curriculum in weekly one-hour sessions, host a craft night fellowship event, or adapt the projects for take-home kits (read more about those options in the next section). We hope you will adapt this curriculum to best fit the needs of your unique community.

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Option 1 | Weekly Curriculum

We have included a weekly intergenerational curriculum for the season of Advent-Epiphany. Each hour-long session includes an opening, scripture reading, connection to the art project, discussion questions for the table while creating the art project, and a closing.

We encourage you to forgo separate classes for children, youth, and adults in favor of an intergenerational Sunday school program during the Advent and Christmas season to encourage sharing among people of different ages. Smaller churches may be able to hold an all-church Sunday school program in their fellowship hall, while larger churches might break up into small groups.

Before leading each project, each group leader should be sure to read through all materials and instructions. Making a sample of each project ahead of time may help leaders to assist participants as questions arise, and the sample project can serve as a model for visual learners. Please also refer to the progress photos of each craft (included with this curriculum) for reference.

As each week's projects are completed, you might invite people to display their finished art projects in a common area. See "Ideas for Displaying the Projects" for thoughts about incorporating the weekly projects into worship.

Option 2 | Fellowship Event or Craft Night

Set up stations for each activity at an Advent fair one afternoon during the season, or host an intergenerational art night where multiple projects can be completed in an evening. You might choose to use all seven projects or just a few, depending on space and time. Consider providing some materials and instructions to take home for those who are unable to complete all the projects.

If people will be moving between different stations to complete projects, it can be helpful to have a volunteer or two at each station to guide participants in completing their projects. Be sure to set aside time before the event for a volunteer training session where station leaders can practice creating their project (which can then serve as a model) and learn more about the connection between the project and the scripture/sub-theme. You can also print the “Scripture/Sub-Theme Connection” from the instructions to display on the table.

If participants will stay in one place and complete projects sequentially, be intentional about seating people of different generations around the same table, and make time for sharing. You might adapt or abbreviate the curriculum to guide participants through each project and its connection to the theme. Consider training a few volunteers on the projects you will be completing so they can assist as needed.

Option 3 | Take-home Kits

Create kits for families to take home to complete one or more projects throughout the season. Be sure to include all the necessary materials and the instructions, and make a plan to deliver or mail kits to those who cannot pick one up from the church. This option is also a great supplement to the other two options as a way to include those who cannot participate otherwise.

You might invite members to bring their completed projects to church on a certain day to add to a growing display (see “Ideas for Displaying the Projects” in the next section), or to share photos on social media with a particular hashtag or in a particular thread.

Ideas for Displaying the Projects

- Set up one or more Christmas trees around the church to display the completed projects. (All projects include optional directions for adding hanging loops to create ornaments.) Hang ornaments created by people of different generations next to each other.
- Create a backdrop display out of plywood to feature the completed projects. Paint the plywood with a design or color of your choosing (perhaps a tree or the *From Generation to Generation...* logo), and nail small nails into the plywood throughout the design to hang completed projects. You might switch out the projects each week, sharing weekly projects from children, youth, and adults on the same display.
- Display the completed projects at the front of your worship space, hanging them on a Christmas tree or placing them on a growing chancel-scape. Make some time during worship for a few people of varying ages to bring their completed projects to the display. This could be during opening music, while the Advent candles are being lit, or at a dedicated time when participants will share about the projects. You might ask them to briefly share about their piece, what was most meaningful about the creative process, or something they learned as they were creating.

Ideas for Displaying the Projects (CONT.)

- Invite children to bring their completed projects to worship. During the children's moment, ask each child to share about their piece and add it to the display. You might also adapt the weekly curriculum into a script for the children's moment. For example, you could briefly retell the Bible story, share the connection to the theme and art project, ask some of the included discussion questions, and close in prayer.

OVERVIEW OF ALL MATERIALS NEEDED

Many of these materials overlap in use and the specific items needed for each week are included in the weekly curriculum. We've included links to purchase specific materials online, but you may already have many of these supplies or alternate supplies that will work well. Read through the instructions for each week before you purchase supplies—you may find that you can adapt the projects to use materials you already have.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR EACH PROJECT

The First Sunday of Advent

FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

There's room for every story



SCRAPBOOK WREATH

- A variety of paper in blues, purples, golds, black, and white, such as newspapers, scrapbook paper, old books, notebook paper, cardstock, copy paper, wrapping paper, old magazines, construction paper, etc. Use what you have on hand!

Tip: you can also paint paper to match the color palette using tempera or watered down acrylic paints, or create colored recycled paper by adding a small amount of paint to the paper pulp.

- Scissors, one pair per 1-2 people.
- Markers and/or crayons (we recommend black, blue, and purple for a cohesive color palette).
- Gold and white paint pens or gel pens.
- Small foam rings, one per person (6-8" diameter is a good size).
- Straight pins, floral pins, or thumb tacks.
- *Optional: scrap cardboard or cardstock (for creating a leaf template), ribbons.*

The Second Sunday of Advent

FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

God meets us in our fear



FEAR-HOLDING ORNAMENTS

- Clear craft ornaments, one per person (for young children, you might opt for a wider mouth or [split shell](#) for easier stuffing).
- Blue and purple ribbon, about ½” to 1” wide (for children, substitute paper strips for easier writing).
- Extra fine point black permanent markers (for children, substitute pens or extra fine point washable markers).
- Gold paint pens or permanent markers (you can also use gold acrylic paint and brushes, though it takes longer to dry).
- Gold stickers in a variety of shapes.
- Yarn, string, or thin ribbon.
- *Optional: masking tape (for easier writing on ribbons), table coverings, white extra fine point paint pens (for children, substitute gel pens).*

The Third Sunday of Advent

FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

We can choose a better way



BLOOMING WIRE SCULPTURES

- [Thin wire garland](#), about 0.75 to 1 meter per person (the amount is very flexible).
- Wire cutters or scissors; one pair per group is sufficient.
- *Optional: thin ribbon, small silk flowers, beads and/or bells with large holes.*