

2017 ADVENT WORKSHOP: “Carpenter’s for Christ!”

Leader’s Script

This script is designed to help the Leader guide the beginning of your workshop. You are welcome to edit and expand on information however you like! It is not necessarily meant to be read word for word or done play by play.

1. ROOM SET-UP:

- Set up an area with chairs and a screen so everyone can see your Power Point.
- In another area, arrange as many rectangular tables as needed so that they are facing a “stage” where a leader may facilitate the crafts.
- Organize all craft materials on the tables so that they are ready before children arrive.
- AFTER the Leader’s Welcome, Children will do the crafts together in a large group, following the leader as they go step by step. Table supervisors will assist as needed (especially younger students), keep children on task, and award stickers onto the tool belts of all children who are participating.

2. MATERIALS TO PREPARE

- Tool Box (either label actual tools or *prepare cardboard cutouts of different tools and label them: Priest, Choir, Sunday school teacher, Students of God. Place inside tool box*)
- Tool Belt
- Power Point (or visuals of Santa’s workshop, elves making toys, Joseph & Mary, etc.)

3. GETTING YOUR WORKSHOP STARTED:

As children arrive, invite them to take a seat in a chair in front of your screen. Once everyone has arrive, begin with:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Leader’s Welcome and Explanation of our theme, “Carpenter’s for Christ!” (*Below*)
3. Music
4. Crafts

4. LEADER’S WELCOME & EXPLANATION OF THEME:

Welcome! Paree Looy’s! Thank you for participating in the Christian Education Council’s 2017 Advent Workshop. Let’s find out who is here. (*Call out the name of a parish and have students give out a “cheer” if they attend that Sunday school.*)

Each year, the CEC selects a meaningful and fun theme for our Advent Workshop. This year, we chose the theme, “**Carpenter’s for Christ!**” But what does that mean?

As Christmastime approaches, we hear all about “Santa’s Workshop” where he and his elves are famous for making toys. Santa and his elves are “toy carpenters!” Joseph, Mary’s husband, was also a carpenter. In his workshop, he taught Jesus how to be a carpenter, too. What kind of carpenters do you think Joseph and Jesus were? (*Pause for answers*) With Jesus’ help, Joseph made furniture for their neighbors.

Today, we will become Carpenter’s for Christ as we learn more about the Advent season, which leads us to Christmas Day when we celebrate the joyous birth of the baby Jesus. So if you’re ready, put on your tool belts and let’s get busy doing God’s work!

The Church is like God’s toolbox. I have a toolbox myself, (*show tool box*). God has a lot of jobs to do and he has given the people in His Church different gifts and talents to help Him to do those jobs. All of **us** are His tools! Let’s see what tools God has in our toolbox. (*One by one, take out a cardboard tool as you say . . .*) To some of us, He has given the talent to preach, like our Der Hays. To some, He has given musical talent to help lead others in worship and song, (choir). To some He has given the talent of teaching so that they can help others to learn more about Him, (Sunday school teacher). To most, He has given a love to learn more about scripture, the church, and

our amazing Armenian culture, (students of God). There is no one person in the church that can do everything, is there? Listen to what the Bible says about gifts from God: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us."

God has lots of different tools in His toolbox. Which tool are YOU in God's toolbox? What is YOUR spiritual gift? How can you use your gift and talent during this Advent season as we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus? It doesn't matter what your talent is and it doesn't matter if you are big or small. What does matter is that God has a job for you to do, and you need to be right there in His toolbox, ready and willing for Him to use you!

Lord, we thank you that you have given each of us special abilities to do things for you. We pray that when you need us, we will be ready and willing to do what you need for us to do. Amen.

5. MUSIC: Students will sing/perform all Sharagans they have learned since beginning of school year from our Choir Curriculum, along with a couple of easy Christmas carols - Directed by Sevag Derderian or other choir/music director. *Optional:* Distribute Kazoos to children to use while singing, explaining carefully when they are to be used!

- Sharagans
- Christmas Carol
- *Optional:* Kazoos

6. EXPLANATION OF ACTIVITY STATIONS: (5) Model and briefly go over instructions for each activity.

1. Tool belts - *put on immediately. Table supervisors will be attaching "tools" (stickers) throughout the workshop on the tool belts of all students who are following directions and participating. If your tool belt has 5 stickers at the end of the day, you will earn a GOLD STAR to pin on your lanyard.*
2. Advent Prayer Beads (*make one, give one to a resident of the Ararat or Armenian Home*)
3. Carpenter's Nativity Stable
4. Baby Jesus in Manger
5. Pom Pom Sheep
6. Afternoon Activity: Priest's Demonstration of "How to Make 'Mahs'"

7. ACTIVITY TIME!

Ask students to each find a place around a Workshop Table. Make certain each Workshop Table has supervisors and helpers to assist with crafts.

Guide students to complete each craft, in the order as written above. Keep track of time so you can complete everything!

Have fun!