



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Mark 13:37



Advent, the four Sunday leading up to Christmas, is a time to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for Jesus Christ coming to us as a baby at Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is a great time of waiting, preparing, and joy, which is represented in the Advent wreath. (The purple candles symbolize penitence and the pink one joy.)

Materials required:

- **Green tissue paper** (2 sheets) - they do not have to be the same shade of green!
- Green construction paper (1 sheet)
- Purple construction paper (2 sheets)
- Pink construction paper (1 sheet)
- 4 long yellow pipe cleaners (*12 inches long*)
- 4 empty cardboard toilet paper rolls (or 2 empty cardboard paper towel rolls cut in half)
- Masking tape
- Scissors

Adapted from: <https://www.sweetlitleonesblog.com/2015/11/family-advent-wreath-craft-for-kids.html>

- Glue
- Stapler (optional)

1. Fold the green construction paper in half lengthwise. Cut in a straight line along the fold. You will only need 1 of these pieces.
2. Take that a piece of green construction paper and fold it in half lengthwise again. Cut in a straight line along the fold. You should now have two long, thin pieces of green construction paper.
3. Take both pieces of paper and glue or staple the ends together so you have one very long, skinny piece of green construction paper. This is the base of the wreath. Set aside to dry.
4. Take the green tissue paper, and fold in half twice so it is close to the shape of a square. Cut along all of the folds. You should have 4 squares. Cut each square into thirds. Then, cut each third into thirds. (You can place each of the 4 large squares on top of each other and then cut them all at together - this saves a lot of time!) Repeat for the second piece of tissue paper. You should yield 36 squares per sheet of tissue paper so 72 squares total. (Don't worry about the cuts being even or straight - it does not need to be perfect!)
5. Gently crinkle all of the tissue paper squares. It works best by pinching the middle and then crinkling the edges (so it kind of looked like a flower). But you really can't go wrong!
6. Lay out the long green construction paper. Starting about one half inch from one end, vertically draw a line of glue, and set 3 of the crinkled tissue paper squares on it. Continue doing this all the way down the green construction paper, keeping the crinkled paper squares tight together, until you get to about one half inch from the other end. Save 3 crinkled tissue paper squares.
7. Staple or glue together the ends of the construction paper to form a circle. Once dry, draw a line of glue over the seam and use your 3 saved pieces of crinkled construction paper to cover it. Let the wreath dry.



Candle Directions:

1. Fold each pipe cleaner in half and twist the folded end.
2. Place a piece of masking tape over the opening of each toilet paper roll.
3. Using the wire end of the pipe cleaners, poke two holes fairly close together in the center of the masking tape on the toilet paper rolls. Stick one end of each pipe cleaner in each hole. Gently move the pipe cleaner up and down in the tape until it moves fairly easily. (It should look like the picture above.) Set aside.
4. Fold the pink and purple construction paper sheets in half. Cut in a straight line along the folds. You will only need 1 of the pink rectangles and 3 of the purple ones.
5. Wrap one piece around the toilet paper roll so the bottom of the construction paper and the bottom of the toilet paper roll line up (the twisted pipe cleaner end is the top). The construction paper will be significantly taller than the toilet paper roll. This is what you want - then you will not be able to see the cardboard!
6. You can trim the excess of construction paper vertically or feel free to leave the excess if you want. Then, draw a line of glue along the long, trimmed edge of the construction paper and glue the ends together forming a cylindrical candle around the toilet paper roll. (You do not have to actually glue it to the toilet paper roll.) Hold until dry. Repeat for each candle.

7. Push each yellow pipe cleaner down into the candle so that it can't be seen (but you can still easily reach it!).

Your Advent Wreath:

Now, you're ready! Place the candles freely and evenly along the inside edge of the wreath in a place of prominence in your house, like your dining room table. Every week, you light one candle by pulling up the yellow pipe cleaner.

The candles are lit in this order: purple, purple, pink, purple (on Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th).

