Gaudete Sunday

The rose candle and joy while we wait

Ages about 7-11 | Video 2:25 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth The rose candle on Advent's third Sunday invites us to rejoice because the Lord is near.

Learning goals Identify Gaudete Sunday and the rose candle; distinguish Christian joy from getting everything we want; and plan a hopeful act of care.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask what the rose candle reminds us to do. Explain that feelings can vary while we trust God together.

Watch and notice

Notice the meaning of Gaudete, the third candle, and the distinction between joy, excitement, and having what we want.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What does Gaudete mean?
It means rejoice. The reflection connects it with Saint Paul's invitation to rejoice in the Lord.

2. Which Advent candle is rose-colored?
The third candle, lit on Gaudete Sunday. Its color expresses joy as Christmas draws near.

3. Is joy the same as getting everything we want?
No. The reflection roots joy in God's presence and faithfulness, even when life remains difficult.

4. How can you share hopeful joy without ignoring someone's sadness?
Listen, offer company, pray, or help with something small. Never tell someone they must stop feeling sad.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

Gaudete Sunday

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw the Advent wreath with its rose third candle. Then draw one caring action that could bring hope to someone. Accept an oral explanation.

Read & Write Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

A rose candle of hope | Optional 4 minutes

Make a paper Advent wreath with three violet candles and one rose candle. On the rose candle write God is near. Around it add three small ways to bring hope to someone: listening, helping, and prayer. Choose one action without expecting to fix another person's feelings.

Look for understanding Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to advent joy rooted in god's nearness.

Closing prayer Jesus, you are our joy. Stay close to us in glad and difficult moments, and help us share your hope. Amen.

At home Explain the rose candle to an adult and pray together for someone who needs encouragement.

Handout answer notes Gaudete means rejoice. The Lord is near and faithful. Caring plans may include listening, safe company, practical help, and prayer.

Teach with care

Provide paper and pencils. Preview the video and invite children to ask questions or pass. Rose vestments may be used on Gaudete Sunday. Christian joy does not demand constant happiness or silence about real sadness. Use paper or electric candles for the activity.

Words to explain Gaudete: rejoice. Rose: the pink-toned liturgical color used on the third Advent Sunday. Joy: glad trust in God's nearness, even amid difficulty.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English transcript

Background: USCCB: Advent and the rose candle

Background: Philippians 4:4-7: rejoicing in the Lord