# **Disposition:** Being Hopeful and Visionary

## **Lesson:** Two

### **Question/LO:** What do Christians hope for the future? Where does their hope lie?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious worldviews | For Christians the season before Christmas is called Advent. It starts on the last Sunday in November, and ends on Christmas Day. The word Advent means ‘coming’. It is a time when Christians remember Jesus coming to earth as a baby, and when Christians especially think about Jesus’ promise to return. Many Christians believe in a Day of Judgement, when those who believe and trust in Jesus will go to live with him forever in heaven (or when they die if that happens first). In Christian funeral services, it is emphasised that, after death, people will go to be with God, and that this is the Christian hope.In the Bible, there are references to a ‘Day of Judgement’ where everyone will be judged. Christians have no idea when this might happen. In the Gospels, Jesus tells stories about how this might happen. One of these stories is sometimes referred to as the parable of the sheep and the goats. Matthew 25: 31-46.Split the class into two groups to represent the division in the story: sheep and goats. Each group can say together the words from the story uttered by the ‘sheep’ and the ‘goats’.According to the story, which kind of people can have hope at the Day of Judgement? What is their hope? Many churches use an Advent crown to mark the coming of Advent and to help focus on the coming of Jesus as a baby and the second coming of Jesus which Christians look forward to. Make a class Advent crown with four red candles (one at each corner) and a central white candle, decorated with holly. Pupils could also create individual pictures of Advent crowns. Give pupils a choice of how to decorate them:1. Coming of Jesus as a baby - On each of the candles pupils draw something that Christians might do to get ready for the coming of Jesus as a baby at Christmas eg writing and sending cards; using an Advent calendar; putting up a nativity set.
2. Second Coming of Jesus - On each of the candles, pupils draw representations of what Christians might do to get ready for the Second Coming of Jesus as described in the story in Matthew eg giving food/drink/clothing and being hospitable to others.

During Advent, identify five occasions on the run up to the end of term (eg one day per week) when it is possible to light the candles on the class advent ring. On the first day, light one on the outside, on the second time, light two. The final candle could be lit with the other four on the last day of term.  | Bible references:Matthew 25: 31-46.<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25&version=ICB> The words for each are on powerpoint slides which will download with this lesson planY5\_Unit\_04\_Aut\_Wk\_02\_of\_03\_R123\_Resource\_v1Materials to make an Advent crownCard and collage materials to make advent crown pictures. |