

# The O Antiphons

## Supplies:

- Copy of the song “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
- Sheet of circles for the O Antiphons
- Pencils, crayons, markers
- Prayer sheet

## Directions for Activities:

- Read Isaiah 9:5 and Matthew 1:22-23 (below)
- Explain the meaning of the O Antiphons: Antiphons are short prayers that are prayed when people come together for evening prayer (also called vespers). Seven days before Christmas the O Antiphons are sung. Each begins with the word “O,” followed by a different name for Jesus.
- Distribute the sheet with seven circles and prayers. Each of these is an “O.” Draw a picture inside the “O” that shows a symbol of the Jesus-name.
  1. O Wisdom – an eye
  2. O Adonai – hand
  3. O Root of Jesse – tree root
  4. O Key of David – key
  5. O Rising Dawn – rising sun
  6. O King of Nations – crown
  7. O Emmanuel, God-with-us – crib/manger

## Isaiah 9:5

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

## Matthew 1:22-23

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”  
which means “God is with us.”