



ADVENT

THE PROMISE, THE WAITING, THE ARRIVAL

DISCUSSION NOTES

Introduction

The word “advent” is rooted in Latin and simply means, “coming”. Advent is intended to be a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ (the King). On this side of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we’re able to celebrate this season in two distinct ways. By looking back, we identify with those who awaited and longed for the arrival of their Messiah promised in the scripture. We do this from a perspective knowing that God, in His faithfulness sent Jesus just as he said. We also look ahead, in expectation and longing for Jesus return to set our broken world right.

Advent, while not a biblical mandate, is a long standing tradition within the Church, to focus our minds and hearts on the coming of Christ. It’s our hope that in the weeks leading up to the day we celebrate the birth of Christ, that you, your family and/or Community Group would take time to meditate on God’s Word who became flesh (human) in order to bring us rescue and redemption from our brokenness, sin and death.

WEEK 1 - THE PROMISE

The bible is filled with promises that God will one day heal our broken world. This season is about reflecting upon the beauty of how these promises were surprisingly fulfilled by God entering into our brokenness, through Jesus.

Read: Isaiah 40:1-11 and Genesis 3:15-16

Observation: What is happening historically in these passages? Who is Isaiah writing to?

Interpretation: What do the passages appear to be teaching and saying? What are the promises that God is making?

Application: How can you apply what’s being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

WEEK 2 - THE WAITING

Our lives often consist of “waiting”. Imagine how the Israelites felt while they waited for God’s promise for a good king to reign. Consider how your character is built and your confidence in God matures, as you await His promises.

Read: Isaiah 9:2-7

Observation: What is happening historically in this passage? What challenges do the people in the passage face?

Interpretation: What is the passage teaching and saying? What are the promises that God is making?

Application: How can you apply what’s being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

WEEK 3 - THE ARRIVAL

Jesus is the embodiment of God’s faithful promises. With the arrival of King Jesus came the hope of healing, forgiveness and life, in the place of brokenness, alienation and death. Take time to reflect upon how Jesus changed everything.

Read: Luke 2:1-21

Observation: What is happening historically in these passages? Who are the key characters in the story?

Interpretation: What do the passages appear to be teaching and saying? What are the promises that God is making?

Application: How can you apply what’s being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

Community Group Discussion

- **Information:** Read the passage/answer the questions.
- **Transformation:** Being honest/transparent, discuss how God through the gospel intends to change you.
- **Mission:** Pray together. Surrender to God’s mission.

Family Devotion Discussion

- **Information:** Have your child read the passage.
- **Transformation:** Make it personal. Help them to see God’s love through what He’s already done for them.
- **Mission:** Pray/sing together, give yourselves to God.