

GROUP DISCUSSION SHEET

Living Advent | Week 1 | December 1, 2024

Scripture and Big Idea

Isaiah 9:1-7 | We are hope-filled people who celebrate and wait for Jesus

Questions for Connection *(Offer these to help the group become comfortable and connected)*

1. “Show and tell” Have members bring an item that has meaning to them and tell the group about it.
2. What are some of your favorite Christmas decorations? Why?

Questions for Study *(Fact questions get people reading the Bible. Application questions get people talking. Both are needed.)*

Warm up: Tell of a time when you were waiting on something and it seemed to take forever?
Which of the video stories in the Live it Out were most impactful to you?

Read Isaiah 9:1-7 Sermon Principle: We wait “with” Jesus for him to set all things right.

1. How does this passage point forward to Jesus Christ? In what ways does his life and ministry fulfill this prophecy.
2. How does the image of light breaking into the darkness give you hope? When have you experienced God’s Light breaking through your “darkness?”
3. Which of the titles for the messiah resonates most with you? Why?
4. How does Isaiah's prophecy shape your understanding of the significance of Christ's birth? What specific promises are yet to be fulfilled in verse 7? How do these promises give you courage and hope?
5. What stands out to you about what the Bible says about hope. (Rom 15:13, 1 Peter 1:3, Ps 62:5) How is the hope expressed in the Bible different from general optimism?
6. How does the promise of Christ’s coming (both the first and second) give you hope?
7. What practices during advent help you keep the focus on Christ as the ultimate source of hope?
8. What are some practical ways we can share the hope of Advent with those who may feel hopeless?

“Go to” for any text

1. What is your biggest take away from this lesson?
2. What did you learn about God from this passage?
3. How will you pray differently as a result of what you learned?
4. What one change will you make in your life from this lesson?
5. What is a key verse for you from this text?
6. So what? Why is this passage important?

Questions to ask Jesus *(Offer these for personal reflection before your group prayer time)*

1. Ask Jesus, “Where do I need to shift my focus to what you have done and will do?”
2. Ask Jesus, “What truths about the future have you provided to give me hope?”