



Advent - CG Discussion

November 28, 2021
CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As a church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)
Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) - *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

NOTE TO CG LEADERS: *The week of 11/28 is the last week for regular group time in 2021. As such, the majority of discussion time this week is centered around advent as a whole and looking ahead to 2022. The big win for Scripture + Sermon Discussion for this week will be making and talking about a rest/Sabbath plan for December.*

Read Isaiah 9:1-7 twice.

1. In Isaiah 9:2, the prophet Isaiah says that Christ shines as a light in the midst of great darkness. What are ways that you have experienced darkness over the course of 2021? How does the light of Christ shine brightly into the midst of that darkness?
2. In Isaiah 9:6, we read that Jesus will be to His people a 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.' As you consider what you long for from God this advent season, which of those titles of Jesus do you resonate with the most and why?
3. For the month of December, we are taking a collective month-long sabbath break as a church from our regular Community Group rhythms. We want this to be a time where we as a church family rest with the Lord, as we process 2021 and look forward to 2022. But rest takes intentionally. The best rest comes with making a plan. So for the next 10 minutes (or however long is needed) we are going to take some time individually to make a rest plan.
 - a. There are three categories - **Daily** (what is something you'll do every day in December to rest with God), **Weekly** (What is something you will do once a week to rest with God), and **One-Time** (what is one thing outside of the ordinary you can do in December to rest with God).
 - b. Below, you will find some examples:
 - i. Daily - Spend 10 minutes each day using the Advent Guide
 - ii. Weekly - Take a one-hour prayer walk in nature
 - iii. One-Time - Take a four hour mini-retreat to pray about 2022 and reflect on 2021.
 - c. Take some time now individually to write these things out, then come back together and discuss.
4. Pray for your CG and our church to put our trust in God when to save us.

ENGAGE THE HEART

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)
Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes

