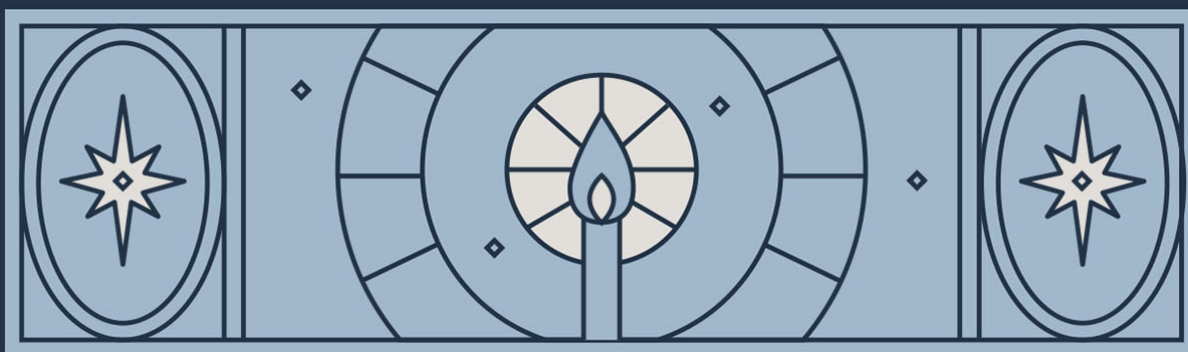


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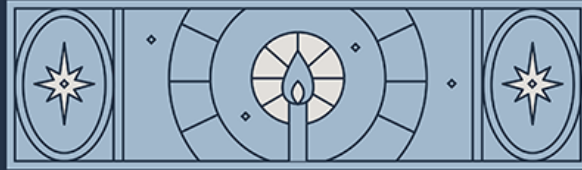
Holy Light



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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First Sunday of Advent

Dates: Between November 27 and December 3

Primary Text: Isaiah 64:1–9

Supplementary Texts: Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:24–37

Topics: Hope, Repentance, God's Promises, Advent

Big Idea of the Message: Throughout Scripture we see that our sin separates us from God's holiness. When he responds to our sin, it is with a specific purpose in mind: to draw our attention to our fault, to call us to repentance, and to restore us to a holy relationship with him.

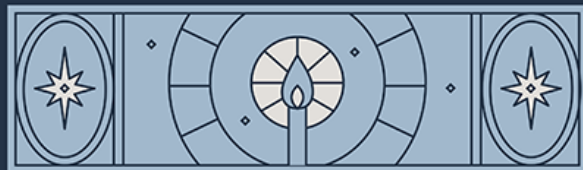
Application Point: We can be confident in the hope that God works in all things (including our failings) for our benefit and for our future well-being.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How can the study of history and of Scripture help us make better-informed decisions in our own life?
3. How can an honest reflection of our own lives help us see where we need to respond to past and present sins?
4. What hope are we offered in Christ? How does repentance restore that hope in us?
5. Do you have your own questions about anything in this week's message? (If possible, give group members the option to share those questions in the group setting or one-on-one.)
6. How can we pray for you?

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Second Sunday of Advent

Dates: Between December 4 and 10

Primary Text: Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

Supplementary Texts: Isaiah 40:1–11; 2 Peter 3:8–15; Mark 1:1–8

Topics: Peace, Forgiveness, Salvation

Big Idea of the Message: God's love comforts and restores his people, leading us to a place of safety and rest.

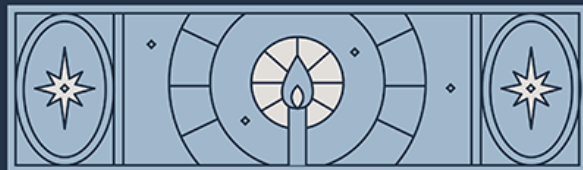
Application Point: We can be confident that God's love holds nothing back—including his restorative forgiveness and care for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When has someone extended you mercy when you deserved their anger? How did their response impact your relationship with them?
3. When have you responded in anger to someone's thoughtlessness? What was the result?
4. Why would God be justified in his anger toward us? How does his long-suffering nature show the depth of his care?
5. How might we acknowledge and respond to God's forgiveness and promise of peace this week?
6. How can we pray for you?

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Third Sunday of Advent

Dates: Between December 11 and 17

Primary Text: Psalm 126:1–6

Supplementary Texts: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Luke 1:46–55, 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28

Topics: Joy, Restoration, Advent

Big Idea of the Message: The joy described in Scripture is found not in daily pleasures but in the surety that God's care for us is genuine and his promises to us are true.

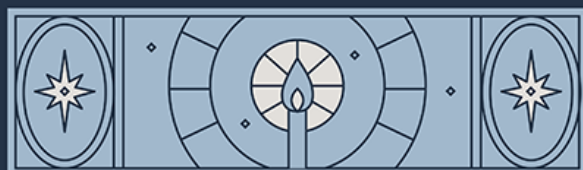
Application Point: We can rejoice in the Lord's promises for our present and future because we have witnessed and experienced his faithfulness in the past.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How would you describe joy? Give an example of a time when you've been able to express joy in the midst of a difficult situation.
3. How does recalling God's fulfilled promises of the past help us hold on to the promises he's yet to fulfill in our lives?
4. Why does God sometimes focus more on our spiritual healing than on our physical comfort?
5. How does the birth of Christ fulfill God's greatest promise of all?
6. How can we pray for you?

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dates: Between December 18 and 24

Primary Text: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Supplementary Texts: Luke 1:46–55 or Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38

Topics: Love, God's Promises, Advent

Big Idea of the Message: God's greatest gift of love comes through his Son, Jesus Christ, but it is also expressed in his constant presence with us in our everyday comings and goings.

Application Point: We can best show our love to God when we trust and acknowledge him in our daily lives and welcome him into each activity of our day.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How does God's response to David's desire to do something grand show us how God prefers to interact with us on a daily basis? How do we see that lived out in Christ's birth?
3. What is a blessing or piece of good news that caught you by surprise or left you wanting everyone to share in your good fortune?
4. What are some simple ways we can respond to God's gifts to us each day? How might that response bless those around us?
5. How does the Advent season prompt us to move into a closer, more personal relationship with God?
6. How can we pray for you?