



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2024 | WHAT IS ADVENT?

WARM-UP QUESTION

Take a moment to look up the definition of “advent.” When you hear the word, what comes to mind? Does it make you think of a particular tradition, feeling or memory?

The Three Advents of Jesus

In the Carnation

- Read [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)
 - These verses were written in a time of darkness and spiritual unfaithfulness for Israel. Why would this prophecy have been particularly meaningful to a nation facing oppression and uncertainty?
 - What do the titles “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace” (v.6) reveal about the nature of the coming Messiah? Which of these names resonates most with you today?
- Read [Luke 2:10-11](#)
 - Why is it significant that the angel calls Jesus the “Savior”? What does this tell us about His mission and purpose? Where in scripture do you see Jesus live out this purpose?
 - The angel declares this message is for “all the people.” The shepherds were ordinary people who were chosen to receive this extraordinary announcement. What does this say about how God chooses to reveal Himself? How does this encourage you in your own walk with God?

In the Present

- Read [John 14:16-17](#)
 - Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit as an “Advocate.” What does the term “advocate” imply about the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers?
 - How do you think the disciples might have felt about Jesus’ departure, and how would this promise of the Holy Spirit have comforted and reassured them?
 - Jesus’ physical presence was temporary, but the Holy Spirit is promised to be with believers forever. How does this change the way we think about the lasting impact of Advent – both the birth of Jesus and His ongoing presence through the Holy Spirit?



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The Final Advent of Jesus

- Read [Matthew 24:30-31](#) – Son of Man on Clouds of Heaven
 - In verse 31, Jesus says that He will send His angels with a “loud trumpet call” to gather His elect. How does this imagery of angels and the trumpet emphasize the importance and finality of His second coming?
 - The second (or final) coming of Christ in Matthew 24:30-31 promises the final gathering of God’s people and the restoration of all things. How does this promise give hope to Christians, especially in light of suffering, injustice, and uncertainty in the world today?
- Read [Revelation 21:1-7](#)
 - In verse 1, John describes a new heaven and a new earth and the passing away of the old. What does this imagery of renewal suggest about God’s ultimate plan for creation?
 - In what ways does reflecting on God as the “Alpha and Omega” deepen your sense of anticipation and trust during Advent?

RESPOND

- Consider how you can reflect the hope of Jesus' birth in your daily life. Commit to one specific action that brings hope to someone else, whether through an act of kindness, a word of encouragement, or by intentionally preparing your heart for the celebration of Christ's birth.
- Pray together as a group. Thank God for revealing more of who He is through the birth of Jesus, and ask Him to help you apply His guidance and embrace the hope and peace He offers this advent season.