



WAYPOINT CHURCH

Life Group Advent Series 2022

WAYPOINT CHURCH LIFE GROUP ADVENT SERIES

WEEK ONE: HOPE

For this week's session you will need:

A candle and a means to light it (H and S obligatory notice, make sure you have a means to put it out!)

Bibles

Access to Youtube (It's a good idea to have the video ready to play to avoid ads)

Pause and pray

To begin, light a candle, asking people to focus on the light and read the following prayer:

God of hope, your Son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. A sign of your great love to us. Help us walk faithfully in that love during the weeks of advent. As we wait and prepare for his coming. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Choose one of the following and allow people to focus on the words of this beautiful traditional carol

O come, O come, Emmanuel by For King and Country

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkvYR4BcHYc>

O come, O come, Emmanuel by Kings College Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gclIZpnZPgo>

Read God's word

Gen 47 v 10

Isaiah 42 v 1, ch 53

Micah 5 v 2

What shadows, hints and whispers of His coming can be seen in these texts?

Digging deeper

Watch this 5 min video from The Bible Project

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/yakhal-hope/>

Read Genesis Ch 3 v 15

Why do we need hope?

Where in the Old Testament do people have to wait? (Noah, 40 years in the wilderness and the Exile to Babylon are a few examples, but see what your group come up with first)

What do these stories from the Old Testament tell us about the character of God?

Response

How good are you at waiting?

Are there 'yet to be fulfilled' promises of God in your life?

How do we maintain faithfulness in the waiting?

Meditation

Read aloud Isaiah Ch 9 v 1-7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS3vpAWW2Zc>

Using this link, play "For unto us a child is born" from Handel's Messiah as a means of meditating on God's word. It may be helpful to turn the lights down low and encourage people to either focus on the candle or close their eyes.

Prayer

Using the ancient prayer of God's people, use the phrase "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus" as a response to short prayers of where hope is needed in our lives, community and world.

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WEEK TWO: PEACE

For this week's session you will need:

A candle and a means to light it (H and S obligatory notice, make sure you have a means to put it out!)

Bibles

Access to Youtube (It's a good idea to have the video ready to play to avoid ads)

Pause and pray

To begin, light a candle, asking people to focus on the light and read the following prayer:

God of peace, your Son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. A sign of your great love to us. Help us walk faithfully in that love during the weeks of advent. As we wait and prepare for his coming. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Choose one of the following to help still your soul in the presence of God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNpiQwgStNA> Silent Night Hillsong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRZOv31n1sY> Silent Night Winchester Cathedral Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sme8N2pzRx8> Silent Night Pentonix

Read God's word

Jesus's arrival fulfilled Isaiah's words. Read Luke Ch2 v 8-15

Why did God announce the birth of the King to shepherds?

What does this tell you about the nature of God?

Digging deeper

Watch the following video by the Bible Project.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/shalom-peace/>

Shalom or Whole body wellbeing....

What should that look like for us today? Encourage your group to think about the biblical practices of Jesus ie. sabbath, silence and solitude, simplicity, serving others to name a few.

Response

Eugene Petersen says that Sabbath is “A time to receive silence and let it deepen into gratitude” As we do this our soul can rest in the presence of our saviour and experience peace.

How can you create space to receive and experience the peace of God over the Christmas season? If you are introverted then silence and solitude probably sounds very appealing and something you crave in the midst of a hectic social calendar but time alone with Jesus is essential for extroverts too.

Meditation

Read Isaiah Ch 9 v 6-7 aloud 3 times (if people have different translations then pick 3 different ones)

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak as people to listen for which name of Jesus jumps out. Write down the names of Jesus that people heard. Speak them out over one another and the situations people find themselves in. Eg Prince of Peace be present with my family this Christmas, may only words of love be spoken between us.

Prayer

Use the words of the prayer of Francis of Assisi and read together

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

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WEEK THREE: JOY

For this week's session you will need:

A candle and a means to light it (H and S obligatory notice, make sure you have a means to put it out!)

Bibles

Access to Youtube (It's a good idea to have the video ready to play to avoid ads)

Pause and pray

To begin, light a candle, asking people to focus on the light and read the following prayer:

God of Joy, your Son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. A sign of your great love to us. Help us walk faithfully in that love during the weeks of advent. As we wait and prepare for his coming. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Use one of the following tracks as a form of musical worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj7Pr42rlil> O come all ye faithful by Pentatonix

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPC0lvlyCgU> O come all ye faithful Choir and orchestra version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7iPgWgeNsk> Joy to the World by Rend Collective

Read God's word

Read Isaiah Ch 49 v 13 and Ch 51 v 11

What does this say about the character of God?

What will happen to God's people?

Read Luke Ch2 v 9-11

Why were they afraid?

Why should they rejoice?

Digging deeper

Watch the following video from the Bible Project

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/chara-joy/>

What is the difference between biblical joy and happiness?

Read the following passages:

Matthew Ch 5 v 11-12

Acts Ch 13 v 50-52

Hebrews Ch12 v 1-3

What truths about God can sustain joy even through painful or horrible situations?

How are these truths “incarnate” in Jesus?

Response

It has been suggested that Jesus comes in three advents, firstly as a baby incarnate at Christmas, secondly, in our hearts at the point of our salvation and thirdly at the second coming, an advent for which we are still eagerly awaiting.

As we celebrate the first advent of Jesus, what can you do this week to ensure that we live in the present of the second advent, while looking beyond to the third advent?

What will you do to ensure that the busyness inflicted on this season by secular society, doesn't steal our joy?

Meditation

How will you choose joy? It may feel a little weird to begin with, but spend 5 to 10 mins in quiet, reflective prayer. Hold your hands out in front of you in an open posture and allow yourself to receive soul deep joy from the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Praise God!

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WEEK FOUR: LOVE

For this week's session you will need:

A candle and a means to light it (H and S obligatory notice, make sure you have a means to put it out!)

Bibles

Access to Youtube (It's a good idea to have the video ready to play to avoid ads)

Pause and pray

To begin, light a candle, asking people to focus on the light and read the following prayer:

God of Love, your Son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. A sign of your great love to us. Help us walk faithfully in that love during the weeks of advent. As we wait and prepare for his coming. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

As you listen to this song use the candle to help you focus on the light of the world, given for us.

Noel by Lauren Daigle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGg7KdN19rs>

Read God's word

John Ch 1 v 1-18

1 John Ch 1 v 1-4

Digging deeper

Listen to a section of this sermon by Timothy Keller called The Meaning of Christmas. Start at 16.30 mins and listen to 23.00 mins.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCFvT0C5zxo>

Incarnation, what do you understand by this term? How is Jesus the embodiment of incarnation?

How do we know that God is a loving God?

Was there anything else in the video that particularly stood out for you?

Response

Our response to a God who loves us that much should be to love the Lord our God with all heart, mind and soul, and others as yourself.

What specific thing are you going to do this week to demonstrate your love for God and others?

Meditation

Use this poem as a form of meditation, Love came down at Christmas by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Prayer

Try to be disciplined and only pray thank you prayers. Obviously you can pray for each other afterwards, but try to pray for 5 mins with only thank you prayers.