

# Christmas Advent Talk It Over — December 2025

## A Flexible Talk It Over Format —

December is a month of parties, concerts, events, travel, and visiting or receiving extended family. For this month, we designed the **Talk It Over** to allow flexibility while staying true to the theme of Advent, the focus of the four Christmas messages. This is produced before the messages are preached so feel free to focus on a subject taught in a message.

Feel free to cover any or all the sections when you meet whether it is one night, or multiple nights.

## Understanding the Process and Focus of the Advent Candles

Here is the typical rhythm of churches and families following Advent.

### Week 1:

- Light the Hope candle.
- Read a Scripture about the Messiah's promised coming.
- Pray, focusing on hope in Christ.

### Week 2:

- Light the Hope and Peace candles.
- Read Scripture related to Christ bringing peace.
- Pray for peace in hearts and the world.

### Week 3:

- Light Hope, Peace, and the Joy candle.
- Read Scripture on the joy of Christ's coming.
- Pray for hearts to be filled with the joy of the Lord.

### Week 4:

- Light Hope, Peace, Joy, and the Love candle.
- Read Scripture on God's love revealed in sending His Son.
- Pray for hearts to receive Christ's love.

## Christmas Eve/Christmas Day:

- Light all four outer candles plus the Christ Candle.
- Read Scripture about the birth of Jesus.
- Encourage reflection on Christ as the Light of the World.

## Symbolism of the Wreath Itself

- Evergreen:

God's eternal, unchanging nature; everlasting life.

- Circle shape:

No beginning or end—symbolizing God's eternity and faithful love.

- Increasing light each week:

Christ's light growing brighter as His coming draws near.

# ADVENT STUDY GUIDE 1 — HOPE

Let's focus on Hope by looking at God's perfect timing.

## Main Scriptures

**Luke 2:1–7** *Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.*

*2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.*

*3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.*

*4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,*

*5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.*

*6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.*

*7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**Micah 5:2** *But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.*

**Galatians 4:4** *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.*

## Summary for the Group

Let's focus on Hope by looking at how God arranged every detail of Christ's birth.

Even Caesar's political decree became part of God's larger plan. Prophecy was fulfilled precisely.

Nothing was accidental.

Hope grows when we remember that God is at work even when we cannot see Him, and even when the world seems chaotic or silent.

## Discussion Questions

1. How does seeing God orchestrate Caesar's decree build your confidence in Him today?
2. Why do you think waiting is such a central part of biblical hope?
3. Where do you personally struggle to trust God's timing?
4. What does the fulfillment of Micah 5:2 tell us about God's faithfulness?

## Application for the Week

- Identify one area where you're waiting on God and reflect on these passages this week.
- Pray each day for strength to trust God's unseen timing.
- Encourage someone else who is in a season of waiting.

## ADVENT STUDY GUIDE 2 — PEACE

Let's focus on Peace by watching Simeon and Anna faithfully wait on God.

### Main Scriptures

**Luke 2:25–35** *And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." 33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother, Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."*

**Isaiah 55:9** *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

### Summary for the Group

Let's focus on Peace by noticing how Simeon and Anna found peace not because life was calm, but because they finally saw the One they had been waiting for.

Peace came from recognizing God's work and trusting His higher ways.

Biblical peace is not the absence of stress or struggle—it is confidence that God's plan is good and His timing is perfect.

### Discussion Questions

1. What does Simeon teach us about peace in long seasons of waiting?
2. How can trusting God's higher thoughts (Isaiah 55:9) calm our fears?
3. What circumstances make it difficult for you to experience peace?
4. In this passage, what stands out to you about Jesus being the source of peace?

### Application for the Week

- Take a few minutes each morning to acknowledge Jesus as your peace.
- Choose one practice—prayer, fasting, or thanksgiving—to help cultivate peace.
- Ask God to help you surrender one anxious area of life into His hands.

## ADVENT STUDY GUIDE 3 — JOY

Let's focus on Joy by seeing how God brought good news to ordinary people.

### Main Scriptures

**Luke 2:8–20** *In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*

*10 But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;*

*11 for today in the city of David, there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

*12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

*13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”*

*15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.”*

*16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.*

*17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.*

*18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.*

*19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

*20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.*

### Summary for the Group

Let's focus on Joy by watching God reveal the greatest news to everyday shepherds.

Their lives were ordinary and unseen, yet heaven chose them first. Joy burst into their world when Christ appeared, not when their circumstances changed.

Joy is found in recognizing God's presence and God's promises fulfilled.

### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God chose shepherds for such an important announcement?
2. What does “good news of great joy” mean for people today?
3. How can the presence of Christ bring joy even when circumstances are difficult?
4. What character in this passage do you most relate to—shepherds, Mary, or those who wondered?

### Application for the Week

- Identify one part of life where you need joy restored. Ask God to meet you there.
- Each day write down three ways you see God at work.
- Share with someone how Christ has brought joy into your life.

# ADVENT STUDY GUIDE 4 — LOVE

Let's focus on Love by looking at the humility of Christ's coming.

## Main Scriptures

**1 Corinthians 13:13** *But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

**Galatians 4:4** *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.*

**Luke 2:1–20** *In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*

*10 But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."*

*15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."*

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*19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

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## Summary for the Group

Let's focus on Love by reflecting on what God did at Christmas.

Jesus came in humility—born to ordinary parents, in a small town, placed in a manger. Love is the greatest because it is the very nature of God and the motivation behind His coming.

Love is more than a feeling—it is sacrificial, humble, initiating, and purposeful.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is love called "the greatest"?
2. What does Christ's humble birth teach us about the nature of love?
3. In what ways is God's love different from sentimental or seasonal love?
4. How can our group practice "incarnational love"—love that moves toward others?

## Application for the Week

- Ask God to show you one person who needs a practical, Christlike expression of love.
- Take one step of initiating love—be the one who moves first.
- Pray for a heart that reflects Christ's humility throughout this season.