

Small Group Nov. & Dec. 2025

A disciple... follows Jesus, is changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus.

ADVENT: Week 1 – Light In Darkness

Open in Prayer/
Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision
Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Ice Breaker: What seemingly dark moment in your life did you experience Gods light or hope?

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

In chapter 9, the prophet Isaiah predicts and laments the fall of Jerusalem. While the Assyrian invasion will bring great devastation; the people of God still have an unbreakable hope in the light that He brings. Isaiah also talks about the glorious coming of the Messiah. Jesus is certainly our Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, and Prince of Peace. There will be no end to His reign.

Tell the story – Isaiah 9:1-7 [Have someone tell the story.]
Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]
Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]

Discuss these questions:

- 1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
- 2. How does this show Gods love for you?
- 3. How does this show Gods love for all people?
- 4. How could you share Gods love with others?
- 5. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
- 6. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
- 7. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

- 1. When you are faced with making a difficult decision, from whom do you seek counsel?

 As you have grown as a disciple of Jesus, does it look different from how it once did?
- 2. Share a critical moment in your life when you experienced the amazing peace of God.

Assign Next week's passage – Isaiah 40:1-11 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.] Close in Prayer

ADVENT: Week 2 - Comfort in Sorrow

Open in Prayer/Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Ice Breaker: When was a time in your life care and comfort was missed for you in a tough season? (Find Caring Comforting Responses On The Back)

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

In chapter 40, the prophet Isaiah is addressing those exiled in Babylonian captivity. God is comforting His people by promising that the glory of the Lord will soon be revealed. Today, as disciples of Jesus, we are overwhelmed by the love and grace shown to us through His sacrificial death on the cross. He is our Shepherd that provides us with strength, guidance, and comfort. The Lord calls us to faithfully share this great news with others.

Tell the story – Isaiah 40:1-11 [Have someone tell the story.]
Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]
Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]

Discuss these questions:

- 1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
- 2. How does this show Gods love for you?
- 3. How does this show Gods love for all people?
- 4. How could you share Gods love with others?
- 5. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
- 6. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
- 7. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

- 1. Just like Jerusalem in this passage, we are called to be the "bearers of good news." What are some reasons why we don't share the good news with others?
- 2. Has God placed someone on your heart that you need to share the gospel with?

Assign Next week's passage – Isaiah 11:1-10 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.] Close in Prayer

Caring and Comforting Responses:

When people are hurting (and you haven't been a part of causing that hurt), they need your comfort.

Comfort means:

- Sharing words that show care and compassion
- Telling how my heart is impacted because of what they have experienced
- Sharing emotion with emotion

(When people are hurting, they need you to hurt with them!)

Examples of Productive Emotional Responses:

I can really see you are hurting

I'm sad to see you grieving.

It saddens me to see you so fearful

I deeply care about you and love you.

I hate that this has happened for you.

It hurts my heart to know you are going through this.

I feel such compassion. I can't imagine how hard this has been. I am committed to going through this with you.

ADVENT: Week 3 - Healing From Decay

Open in Prayer /Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Ice Breaker: Where in your life do you need to experience restoration and new life?

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

In Chapter 11, the Isaiah is encouraging God's people that even though the Assyrians have brought devastation, God will bring life to His people. Even from a dead stump, God can bring forth new life. Today, as new creations in Jesus, we live out Paul's challenge in Romans 15:13. "May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Tell the story – Isaiah 11:1-10 [Have someone tell the story.]
Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]
Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]

Discuss these questions:

- 1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
- 2. How does this show Gods love for you?
- 3. How does this show Gods love for all people?
- 4. How could you share Gods love with others?
- 5. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
- 6. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
- 7. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

- 1. What does the word "hope" mean to you?
- 2. According to Roman 15:13 above, how are you able to abound in hope? As you reflect on your past and look to the future, are you hopeful? Why or why not?

Assign Next week's passage – Isaiah 35:1-10 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.] Close in Prayer

ADVENT: Week 4 - Home From Exile

Open in Prayer /Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite Christmas memory?

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

In chapter 35, the prophet Isaiah affirms to God's people His amazing promises in spite of their anxiety, frailty, and exhaustion. Their enemies will be destroyed followed by times of security, prosperity, and joy. It also clearly describes the ministry and works of Jesus. Jesus made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the lame to leap for joy. Today, as disciples of Jesus, we join those early followers shouting joyful praises and giving glory to the Lord.

Tell the story – Isaiah 35:1-10 [Have someone tell the story.]
Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]
Read the story out loud [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]

Discuss these questions:

- 1. What do we learn about God from this passage?
- 2. How does this show Gods love for you?
- 3. How does this show Gods love for all people?
- 4. How could you share Gods love with others?
- 5. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage?
- 6. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
- 7. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

- 1. When Jesus saved you, what do you remember feeling? Excited? Nervous?
- 2. Imagine being blind from birth, and the first face you ever see is that of Jesus. Would you ever get over that? What seeks to consistently rob you of the joy of Lord?

Assign Next week's passage – TBD [Ask someone to tell the story next week.] Close in Prayer