

## Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Advent Reflection

This week's home group is given over to preparation for Christmas. The current teaching series helps us think about how Christ comes to be with us. Advent is a season in which Christian believers have traditionally been encouraged to prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ at Christmas. A further dimension to this time has been to reflect on the return of Christ and to consider how to be prepared.

We will look at the God who comes in the flesh, exploring the incarnation (John 1:1-14). We will look at the God who defeats death and comes in resurrection to bring hope and life (John 20:19 – 23 / 1 Corinthians 15). Jesus comes to us by His Spirit (John 14:16 – 21), and finally, his return (Matthew 24:36 – 51).

- How do we both respond to events from the past and prepare for the future?
- What does the incarnation and the resurrection mean for Christian hope? Where is our hope and in what?
- What does a preparedness for Christ's return mean for Christian discipleship?

As we think about Jesus being with us, this is a great way to think again about Galatians 2.20 and how Christ is the centre of our life as we fix our eyes on him (Hebrews 12)

This reflection is shaped around 4 themes. Make use of these in ways that will suit your group. The resources are simply a suggestion; you may have other resources that can support the theme.

#### **Theme 1: The Light shines in the darkness.**

Light a candle in the centre of the group. Read John 1: 1 – 5. Write down on small notes some situations of darkness you are aware of, especially thinking about headlines.

Pray together for Jesus to bring light into these situations.

Close with reading John 1:1 – 5 again, and then this prayer

*We give you thanks, Our Father God, for the gift of your son Jesus Christ, whose coming to this world was proclaimed by prophets of old and who was born for us in lowliness and poverty at Bethlehem.*

*As we make ready once again to celebrate his birth, fill our hearts with your own joy and peace, and enable us to welcome him as our Saviour; so that when he comes again in his glory and majesty, he may find in us a people prepared for himself.*

## **Theme 2: Giving witness to the Light**

Read John 1: 6 – 8

Share together about who you would like to point towards to Jesus. Pray in pairs for those people. Pray for opportunity to speak about ways in which Jesus changes your own life.

Read John 1: 16 – 8 again and then this prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, grant renewal to us your people and grant renewal to your whole church:*

*Renewal of love for your and for one another; renewal of faith in your promises and the power of the gospel; renewal of vision for the work of your kingdom throughout the world.*

*Renew our lives, O Christ after you own image.*

*Renew us by your indwelling Holy Spirit and make us strong for service and witness, in your name and for your glory. Amen*

## **Theme 3: His presence with us**

Read John 1: 9 – 14

Split into groups of 2 or 3. Take a minute to replay to yourself the past day, few days or week. What are you thankful in those times? what are sad about? In what ways do you sense Jesus was there in the situations with you? You may not have noticed his presence, but by taking time now can you see him living with us by his Spirit in our everyday situations?

Share with each other, give thanks for the presence of Jesus with us, and pray for days coming towards Christmas to be times where notice again the work and presence of Jesus in our everyday lives.

## **Theme 4: Look for the coming king**

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18; 5:8 – 11

What are your hopes for this Christmas? Paul encourages the Thessalonians to prepare for the coming of Christ through the way they live, and to build each other up with encouragement.

Who would you like to encourage this Christmas? Who will you help see the glorious future with Jesus even in the midst of current reality? Pray together giving thanks for the hope we have in Christ's return and the wonderful future that brings.

Close the evening by listening to the song by Laura Farrar 'From the stable to the cross'. She takes us from Christmas to the cross to resurrection and Jesus's return. (You can find it on Spotify, under artist "Laura Goldthorp") or click this link [Stable to the Cross](#))

Close by reading John 1:1 – 5 together