

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS at VICTORY

Leader Conversation Guide – Advent: Love

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued in our Advent series, Christmas at Victory. He unpacked the second theme of Advent which is Love. Christmas brings us the source and an example of what love is all about and how to live it out. Read 1 John 4:7-19. As a believer, your life is founded in love and it's a love that comes from God. Why do we love? Because he first loved us. Christmas needs to be more than a day in the life of a believer, it needs to become a lifestyle. You can't live a life of love without knowing the source of love. We have to put Christmas in the right perspective.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. "

1 John 4:10 NIV

Make it Practical

Putting Christmas in the right perspective.

- **The reason for the season is sin.** Read Matt 1:18-21, Luke 2:8-12. After 400 years of silence the whole world is waiting for a Messiah, and in the first chapter of the New Testament, it comes to pass. This child will save his people from their sins. Sin is the reason for the season. But how often do we think about sin during Christmas? Nobody puts sin in their top 20 things I like about Christmas list.
- **The motive for the season is love.** Read John 3:16, Romans 5:8. The first mention of love in the Bible is found in Genesis 22 involving the love of a father for his son. The first mention of love in the New Testament is found in Matthew 3 as Jesus is being baptized and preparing to start his earthly ministry that would lead to his death and resurrection. God reserved love for those two places to express the depth of what true love is.

- **The response to the season is completely up to us.** It's up to you how you respond to God's provision for salvation through the gift of Christmas. If you've ever celebrated Christmas without an Easter, you haven't celebrated Christmas. You can't have a cross without a manager. This love was never meant to be about one day, it's Christmas everyday... that's why they call it the present!

Talk About It

- When you hear the word Christmas, what are the first thoughts that come to mind?
- What is one of your fondest love-filled Christmas memories?
- What is one way you can show the love of Christ to others this Christmas?

**"Long lay the world in sin and error
pining. Till He appear'd and the soul
felt its worth."**

O Holy Night

Prayer

Father, Thank You for loving the world so much that You would send Your only Son for us. Help us to love others as You love us! Thank You for the everlasting and unconditional love that can only come from You. In Your perfect and Holy name, Amen.

Leader Tip

This world needs Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy. More than ever before! This Christmas season, share the LOVE of Jesus with others. Over the next few weeks we will continue unpacking each of the themes of Advent! Invite someone to our Advent - Christmas at Victory series!