

ADVENT

HOPE JOY LOVE PEACE

Leader Conversation Guide – Advent (Part IV): Advent Production

Main Idea

This week we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This Advent season we explored the 4 themes of Advent - Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace. As we reflect this Christmas on the arrival of Christ, we present to you a scripture inspired production on the themes of Advent.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

ISAIAH 9:6

Make It Practical:

Hope - Mary and Elizabeth, knew the scriptures written by the prophet Isaiah. There was a blessed promise of a coming Savior who would reign forever. They had HOPE of the coming Messiah, and knew if God said it, it would be. Their trust was placed in His holy name.

Peace - Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem and in that same region Shepherds were tending their sheep. A great company of heavenly hosts appeared to the Shepherds in Luke 2 saying “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth PEACE to those on whom his favor rests.” The shepherds had an encounter with peace, as peace entered the world as a baby that day.

Love - Often called the disciple whom Jesus loved, John learned the transformative power of LOVE through his daily encounters with Jesus. That love characterized his letters and the gospel he wrote as a testimony to the life of Jesus.

Joy - The apostle Paul wrote letters to the early church while under arrest, sending his love and instructions so that the church may grow in wisdom and grow in the JOY he knew and experienced even in the most dire of circumstances. Even in the midst of suffering, Paul chose joy.

Talk About It

- How did this week's message help bring your heart back to what matters most about Christmas? Of the four themes of Advent, which resonated with you the most, and why?
- Which of the names of Jesus listed in Isaiah 9:6 do you need most in this season?
- What is one way you can show the love of Christ to others this Christmas?

**“Christ is for you, Christ is for me,
Christ is for everyone.
He is forevermore.”**

Prayer

Father, we are thankful that You sent Your Son to earth as a baby, so that we could be saved and in relationship with You. We rejoice knowing that Jesus will come again! Today, we pray for hope, peace, joy, and love to surround us as we prepare our hearts and make a way for Jesus this Christmas. We receive Your love! It's in Your mighty name we pray. Amen!

Leader Tip

Remind Group members next week is Church on the Couch, our annual online experience. Encourage them to invite a friend (or Group) over and enjoy a special message from our lead pastors Curt and Pam Seaburg.