

ADVENT

Leader Conversation Guide – Advent: Love

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Curt shared an inspiring message on the theme of love as we begin the Advent season. He reminded us that love is not merely a feeling but a reflection of God's character, demonstrated through the gift of His Son, Jesus, to bring us life and salvation (1 John 4:7-14). Pastor Curt emphasized that in life's valleys, we grow in our understanding of God's intimate presence, and our response to His love should transform how we love others. As we journey through this discussion, let's reflect on how embracing God's love can shape our hearts, relationships, and faith in this season of anticipation.

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'”

MATTHEW 1:23

Make It Practical:

God Is the Source of Love

- 1 John 4:7-14 highlights that love originates from God, who demonstrated His love by sending His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- Loving others is both a reflection of knowing God and evidence of His Spirit living in us.

God With Us in Every Season

- Matthew 1:23 reminds us that Jesus is “Immanuel,” meaning “God is with us,” a promise that sustains us through every circumstance.
- While we may enjoy God on the mountaintops, we come to know Him intimately in the valleys, which are seasons of growth and trust.

Strength and Perspective in the Valleys

- Psalm 84:5-7 encourages finding strength in God and setting our hearts on the journey of faith.
- Valleys can become places of renewal and blessing when we rely on God's presence and faithfulness.

Talk About It

Reflecting on Love

- 1 John 4:7-14 emphasizes that love originates from God and is shown through His sacrifice for us. How does understanding this divine love challenge or inspire the way you show love to others, especially during the Advent season?

Growth in Valleys

- Pastor Curt mentioned that “we may enjoy God on the mountaintops, but we get to know Him intimately in the valleys.” Reflect on a time when you experienced a spiritual valley. How did that season deepen your relationship with God?

Fixing Our Minds

- Colossians 3:2 and Philippians 4:8 encourage us to focus on things above and on what is true, honorable, and praiseworthy. In the busyness of the Advent season, what practical steps can you take to keep your thoughts centered on God’s truth and promises?

**God never promised that we wouldn’t go through the valley.
He promised we’d never have to go through it alone.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for showing us the depth of Your love through the gift of Your Son, Jesus. As we reflect on Your love this Advent season, help us to love others as You have loved us—with grace, compassion, and selflessness. In our mountaintops and valleys, remind us of Your presence and faithfulness. May Your love grow in our hearts, guiding our thoughts, words, and actions. Holy Spirit, we ask for Your strength to walk in love daily and to share the hope of Your coming with the world around us. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Leader Tip

Church on the Couch is happening on December 29th! Cozy up and join us online all morning for this fun broadcast! There will be no in-person services on this date.