



Anointed

DISCUSSION GUIDE



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What is Advent?



Of all the seasons in the Church Calendar, Advent probably feels the most familiar. Many people, regardless of faith, have used an Advent calendar—the ones with little windows to help you count down the days until Christmas. Yet, even though Advent is certainly about anticipating the coming of the Messiah, we don't seem to be very good at it, and what we generally call "Advent" looks pretty different than what the Church historically has called "Advent."

Formed from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival," Advent is the traditional celebration of the first advent of Jesus in humility and the anxious awaiting of His second advent in glory. The season is a time for remembering and rejoicing, watching and waiting. In American Christianity, we've got that first part down. As soon as Thanksgiving is over (and sometimes even before), we start putting up the tree and listening to our favorite Christmas songs. There's nothing wrong with doing these things, of course, but the whole point of Advent is to spend several weeks—four weeks, to be exact—preparing for Christmas instead of celebrating Christmas.

It's about stepping into the shoes of the Israelites, longing and crying out for the Messiah to come. It's about reflecting on our sin and shortcomings and our need for a Savior. It's about looking around at our broken world and hoping for the second coming of Jesus. And, once we get to Christmas Day, the celebration of Jesus' birth becomes that much more spectacular and meaningful.

As we remember and enter this story, the coming of Jesus Christ, we deconstruct and deny the false stories that we find ourselves caught up in, especially those connected to our culture's concept of Christmas—individualism and consumerism. Instead, we reconstruct and embrace the true story of the gospel in our lives, specifically the focuses and themes of Advent. We recognize the weight of sin personally, corporately, and cosmically and why we need Jesus Christ, Immanuel, to dwell among us, restoring and reconciling creation back to the Father by the Spirit. Celebrating the Son of God coming as a gift, not to be served but to serve, we respond out of praise and gratitude, using this season to serve and to give to others.

The Threefold Office of Jesus Christ

What do you think of when you consider a person of authority? Maybe you think of the president of a country, the CEO of a company, or the chairman of a board. A position of authority can be referred to as an office. For example, the Executive Office of the President is not a large working space with a desk and a computer. Instead, it refers to a group of people who receive authority to work alongside the President of the United States in matters that affect the country.

Jesus is considered to have different offices, as well.

While Scripture does not use the language of “office” specifically, based on what we see and learn about Jesus from the Bible, there are three offices that Jesus bears: Prophet, Priest, and King. While this series will dig more deeply into each of these offices, it is helpful to first have an understanding of what each of these offices means.



Prophet

Jesus is the perfect prophet. Though God used prophets in the Old Testament to speak God’s words to His people, Jesus is the very Word of God. He came to earth and took on flesh to share God’s truth and wisdom with people and provide eternal life through the words He taught and by His death & resurrection.



Priest

Jesus is the perfect priest. He is our Great High Priest who reconciled mankind to God through His own sacrifice on the cross. While the priests in the Old Testament made offerings on behalf of God’s people, Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice on our behalf, providing permanent forgiveness for our sin.



King

Jesus is the perfect king. The Old Testament is full of earthly kings who ruled over Israel and other nations. But all of these kings fall short in light of Jesus, who is the one true king. Jesus is King because He rules and reigns over all things. Christ inaugurated God’s Kingdom through His life, death, resurrection, & ascension.



Messiah

While it is not considered an official office, the truth is that the role of Messiah is the fulfillment of all three offices. Messiah means, “Anointed One”, and throughout Scripture it refers to the promised Savior who would rescue and deliver God’s people from their sins. He would be the Word of God in flesh who would offer Himself as the final sacrifice and would bring the Kingdom of God to earth.

WEEK ONE // HOPE: JESUS - THE PERFECT PROPHET

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

What caught your attention from the message?

REFLECT

Read or have someone read Hebrews 11:1-3.

When you think about a prophet, what do you think about? What do you picture?

If the role of a prophet was to speak to the people on behalf of God, how do you think (or how did) people responded to prophets? Why?

Hebrews 1 says that God has now spoken through His Son. How is that different from speaking through the Old Testament prophets?

Read or have someone read John 1:14-18.

How does this passage relate to Hebrews 1:3?

APPLY

How does seeing Jesus as the perfect prophet affect how we view and follow Him today?

What keeps us from listening to and obeying Him?

If Jesus is the exact representation of God, how would you describe God?

CLOSE

How can we work together as a group on this?

PRAYER

NOTES

[illegible]

WEEK TWO // **PEACE: JESUS - THE PERFECT PRIEST**
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

What caught your attention from the message?

REFLECT

Read or have someone read Hebrews 11:1-3.

What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus as a priest?

Read or have someone read Numbers 3:5-10.

According this passage, what were some of the roles of a priest?

Why was the role of a priest important to the nation of Israel?

Read or have someone summarize
Leviticus 16 about the Day of Atonement.

How does this passage relate to Hebrews 1:3?

Read or have someone read Hebrews 10:1-14.

Why does this passage matter to us as Christians? What does it change?

APPLY

How does seeing Jesus as the perfect priest affect how we live today?

If Jesus is the final sacrifice and the high priest, what does it tell us about His death? Why does it matter?

PRAYER

NOTES

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WEEK THREE // JOY: JESUS - THE PERFECT KING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

What caught your attention from the message?

REFLECT

Read or have someone read Hebrews 11:1-3.

What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus as a king?

When you hear the word “King” what do you think about? What do you picture?

Read or have someone read Judges 21:25. Describe a world like that. Describe a workplace, school, team, family like that.

Read or have someone summarize 1 Samuel 8:4-9. What does verse 7 mean? How had they rejected God from being king over them?

Keep reading 1 Samuel 8:10-17.
Describe that kind of king.

Read or have someone read Philippians 2:5-11. How is Jesus different from the 1 Samuel 8 king?

Keep reading Philippians 2:12-18.
What should our response be to Jesus
as King?

APPLY

How does seeing Jesus as the perfect king affect how we live today?

Are you living with Jesus as your King? If not, why not?

PRAYER

NOTES

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WEEK FOUR // LOVE: JESUS - THE PERFECT MESSIAH

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN

What caught your attention from the message?

REFLECT

Read or have someone read Luke 2:8-20.

When you think about a hero, a rescuer, what do you picture?

What do you think the people were looking and hoping for in terms of the Messiah - the Savior?

Read or have someone read John 3:1-15.

Nicodemus was a very religious man.
How would you describe a religious person?

How was Nicodemus' religious view keeping him from seeing Jesus as the Messiah?

In John 4, a Samaritan woman comes face to face with Jesus. Jesus should not have been in Samaria, much less talking to a woman like her at a well. Read John 4:25-30. Why did she respond differently than Nicodemus did?

Read John 3:16. Why is this verse and passage between the stories of Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman?

APPLY

How does seeing Jesus as the perfect Savior affect how we live today?

PRAYER

NOTES

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