

12.18.16 Advent
Discussion Questions

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story about a time when you were so aware of what God was up to in your life and world that you could not hold back the praise.
2. A long-time favorite Christmas carol is Joy to the World. What about Christmas brings your joy?

Background

Luke's retelling of Jesus's story begins with the events that lead up to Jesus's birth. Following Elizabeth's Holy Spirit inspired greeting of Mary the focus shifts from Elizabeth to Mary. Mary's response to all that has gone on in the preceding few days is a song of great hope and praise. Mary gives us the first glimpse of how different the world will be now that Jesus is about to arrive on the scene.

Read Luke 1:46-57

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. What does Mary say was the reason for her praise?
2. What things does Mary compare and contrast in her song?
3. Which of the patriarchs did Mary mention in her song?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. When was the last time you felt like you could say the things Mary said, but about your own life? When last did you feel like you could be called blessed?
2. What does each of the comparisons look like in today's world?
3. Why do you think Mary's response has a reference to Abraham in it?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How can we, like Mary, turn what we believe to be true about God into action?
2. God is turning the expected order of things on its head by bringing Jesus to earth. Where have you seen that be true in your own life?
3. The promise to Abraham was that his seed would outnumber the pieces of sand on the beach. What can you do during Advent to introduce more people to who Jesus is?

Closing

Spend some time praying for one another that the amazing gift that God gave us would not become uninteresting. Be on the lookout during Christmas for opportunities to love people the way Jesus love us.

Reminder: During Advent we pause to remember that Jesus came once as a baby to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God. We also look forward to when Jesus will come back this time on the clouds to usher in the new heave and the new earth.