

Opening

Goal: Focus our attention on Jesus and be open to what He wants to do & say in our gathering.

Suggested Practice:

Read Isaiah 9:6:

⁶For 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.

Worship

Goal: Make Jesus central in our gathering. This could be done through songs, prayerful scripture reading, communion, etc.

Suggested Practice:

Choose 2 songs to sing together (or listen to) that will help you focus on our hope and peace being rooted in Jesus Christ.

- Possible Options:
 - Living Hope ([YouTube](#))
 - O Come All Ye Faithful ([YouTube](#))
 - O Holy Night ([YouTube](#))

[Dismiss the Kids/Youth]

Sharing

Goal: To know each other's stories.

Suggested Practice A:

Select one person to answer the following question:

- What has been the hardest thing you have had to wait for?
 - What did this experience look and feel like?
 - How has this experience changed you?

Suggested Practice B:

Break into groups of 3 people. Answer the following questions:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What has stressed you out this week?

Give the groups 10 minutes to answer the question. Encourage everyone to share.

Discussion

Goal: Learn how to follow Jesus in everyday life.

Learning Objectives:

Main Theme= Jesus' birth makes hope and peace possible.

- Understand that the message of Advent is not a seasonal distraction from our difficulties but the very thing that brings hope and peace to our lives and our world.
- Define biblical hope and peace.
- Explain how a follower of Jesus can experience biblical hope and peace in their life.

Suggested Practice A:

Watch recap of Sunday's sermon (Advent: Hope & Peace) on our [YouTube channel](#).

Possible Questions:

1. How does Advent's theme of waiting contrast with your usual pace of life?
2. What practices can help you incorporate silence and contemplation into Advent?
3. How does the theme of hope during Advent resonate with your current life situation?
4. What personal meaning do you find in the anticipation of Christ's birth and second coming?
5. How could you better serve your neighbors during Advent?

Suggested Practice B:

Read Luke 1:26-38 together. What do you notice? What questions do these words provoke? Why was Mary willing to trust the message from God that came through an Angel?

[Kids/Youth Rejoin Adults]

Prayer

Goal: Respond appropriately to what Jesus is doing & saying in our gathering.

Suggested Practice A:

Break into groups of 3 and ask everyone to identify 1 person in their lives that needs hope or peace during this Advent season. Pray that God would provide an opportunity to demonstrate His love to those in need.

Suggested Practice B:

Get back into the groups of 3 from the sharing exercise. Ask everyone to pray for 1 other person. Pray for breakthroughs in the area that stressed them out.

Communion

Goal: Remember Jesus' death and resurrection. Receive strength & joy that He is with us. Renew our hope for Jesus' return and the restoration of creation.

Suggested Practice:

- Distribute bread and juice.
- Read the following statement... "the body of Christ has been given, broken for us and the entire world. This bread reminds us that He paid a debt that He did not owe so that we wouldn't have to pay a debt that we did owe".
- Eat the bread.

Main Theme= Jesus' birth makes hope and peace possible.

- Read the following statement...“The blood of Christ has been poured out, shed for us and the entire world. This juice reminds us that we have a permanent and unbreakable relationship with Him and that death has no power over us and no power over creation”.
- Drink the juice.

Blessing

Goal: Focus our attention on Jesus and consider what He wants to do & say this coming week.

Suggested Practice:

Read Ephesians 1:17-20 aloud as a prayer over your Small Church.

¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.