

Group Questions – Advent Week 1 – “Embracing the Ache”

What is one of your favorite Christmas traditions?

Share a time you went OVERBOARD on Christmas celebration.

Pastor Nate shared how the season of ADVENT, which precedes Christmas, is a time of mourning or lamenting because it mimics the waiting period of the Jews for their coming Messiah.

Since Jesus, the Messiah, has already come, what would be the purpose for us to lament or mourn as Christmas approaches?

In what ways have you been hoping for CHANGE over this past year?

Read: Isaiah 7:14

This prophecy was given 700 years before Jesus, the Messiah, was born.

What do you think it was like to wait that long for the promised Messiah?

What struggles do you think the Jewish people faced as they waited?

What promise of God are you currently waiting on?

What struggles are you facing as you wait on this promise to be fulfilled?

If this promise is fulfilled, do you think you will be completely satisfied for the rest of your life?

Why do things of this world never completely satisfy us forever?

In your own words, define the word HOPE.

Read: Romans 5:1-5

What is the HOPE that is spoken of in these verses?

What do these verses tell us is the WAY we arrive at this HOPE that does not disappoint?

Pastor Nate spoke of our hope being placed in the 2nd coming of Jesus, the Messiah, partially described in Isaiah.

Read: Isaiah 9:6-7, and Isaiah 11:6-9

What elements of these descriptions gives you hope?

Read: 2 Peter 3:11-12 – *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,”*

What are some things that might cause us to NOT LONG FOR the 2nd coming of Jesus?

In what ways might we be able to HASTEN the 2nd coming of Jesus?

Pastor Nate shared this quote from C.S. Lewis –

“Christianity is the story of how the rightful King has landed, you might say in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in His great campaign of sabotage.”

In what ways might we be “SABOTEURS” for the kingdom of Jesus?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:19 – *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable”*

What is “PITIABLE” about only hoping in Christ for this life?

CLOSING PRAYER