

November 30, 2025

Advent Study Guide – The Grand Miracle

Heaven Is a Wonderful Place

John 1:1–3

OPENING THOUGHT

Colossians 3:2 urges us: “*Set your minds on things that are above...*”

How great is Heaven, really?

Reflect on the beauty of creation and the promise that Heaven surpasses it all—a place beyond imagination where God dwells with His people forever.

SECTION 1 — Thinking Biblically

1. Heaven Is Beyond Description

John’s vision in Revelation shows a place so glorious that earthly language can barely contain it.

2. Heaven Is Home

We long for home because we were made for God’s presence (2 Corinthians 5:1–4).

3. Heaven Is Being With God

The greatest joy of Heaven is not beauty—but **God Himself**.

4. Heaven Is Beyond Imagination

God has prepared something for us beyond human reasoning or imagination.

SECTION 2 — Thinking Practically

1. Comfort in Loss

Heaven becomes more real and dear when loved ones enter its fullness.

2. Strength in Struggle

Knowing earthly burdens are temporary shapes how we endure them.

3. Hope in Advent

Advent looks backward to the manger and forward to the New Heaven and New Earth.

4. Reframing Earthly Values

Nothing on earth compares to even a moment of Heaven.

SECTION 3 — Heaven Is Where Jesus Lives (John 1:1–3)

Jesus is the **Word**—the eternal expression, action, and presence of God.

He:

- **Was in the beginning**
- **Was with God**
- **Was God**
- **Made all things**

Heaven is His eternal home.

SECTION 4 — The Grand Miracle: Jesus Descended

Jesus didn't cease to be God—He added humanity to Himself.

He descended without leaving Heaven.

He came near, entered the womb, and stepped into our world.

This is mystery.

This is miracle.

This is Advent.

SECTION 5 — The Grand Purpose: Why Did Jesus Descend?

Jesus descended in order to **lift us up**—to carry us home to God.

He stooped low so that we could rise high.

He came to:

- Redeem
- Restore
- Reconcile
- Renew
- Return us to God

This miracle shapes how we live, how we grieve, and how we hope.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. Heaven & Hope

1. What is the most beautiful place you've ever seen, and how does imagining Heaven reshape that memory?
2. What aspect of Heaven feels most comforting to you right now—peace, glory, beauty, worship, or the presence of God?
3. How would your life look different if you consciously “set your mind on things above” each day?
4. Why do you think Scripture tells us so much—and so little—about Heaven?

B. The Biblical Picture of Heaven

5. Revelation uses phrases like “*like*,” “*as it were*,” and “*had the appearance of*.” What does this teach you about Heaven?
6. What does our longing for “home” reveal about the human heart?
7. How does 2 Corinthians 5:1–4 deepen your understanding of eternal hope?

C. Jesus as the Word

8. Why do you think John intentionally uses “Word” instead of “Jesus” in this opening section?
9. How does thinking of Jesus as “God in action” shape your view of His character?
10. Where have you seen God “in action” in your own life recently?
11. How does understanding Jesus as the eternal Word anchor your belief that He did not begin in Bethlehem?

D. The Miracle of Descent

12. What stands out to you in Lewis's and Calvin's reflections on the Incarnation?
13. How does the idea that Jesus did not “leave heaven” but descended as God impact your understanding of Advent?
14. Why is it significant that Jesus remained fully God while becoming fully human?
15. What feelings or barriers make the mystery of the Incarnation difficult for you to grasp?

E. God's Grand Purpose

16. In what ways has Jesus lifted you—emotionally, spiritually, relationally, or through suffering?
17. How does knowing that Christ lifts us up change the way we view trials and burdens?
18. How do you respond to the image of Jesus stooping low to carry the “whole mass” of humanity?
19. What part of your life do you need Jesus to lift right now?
20. How does the hope of Heaven reduce your fear of living—or dying?

F. Personal & Group Reflection

21. What is one truth from this study that gives you fresh courage today?
22. How can your group encourage each other to live with Heaven-shaped priorities?
23. What part of the Advent story becomes more meaningful when seen through the lens of Heaven?
24. What is one practice you could adopt this Advent to keep your mind set on things above?