



November 26th, 2017: BETWEEN THE ADVENTS

OPENING

- What is your favorite part of the Christmas season? What was your favorite holiday tradition growing up?
- How do you experience the tension between joy and longing during the Christmas season?

DISCUSS & APPLY

- What do you think of when you hear the word “Advent?” Eric said that the word means “coming.” What are the two Advents of Jesus that he talked about?

[Read John 1:9-13](#)

- According to this passage, how would you describe the first time Jesus came? Why did he come? What did he accomplish?
- How was Jesus received the first time he came? What are the consequences of receiving him and not receiving him?

[Read Acts 1:6-11](#)

- Right before Jesus ascended to heaven, his disciples felt like there was still more for him to do, that not everything was set to right. What were some things Jesus did not complete the first time he came? Looking at the rest of the passage why do you think Jesus decided to leave and come back?

[Read Revelation 21:1-4](#)

- In light of these verses, how would you describe what will happen when Jesus returns?
- What is one part of your life in which these verses give you help? When life gets hard, how can these verses help us encourage one another?

[Read Psalm 78:38-39](#)

- What are some ways in which you are “but flesh?” In other words, how are you limited? What is an area of your life where you regularly need help?
- Who do you think is more disappointed when you mess up: you or God? Why?
- How can knowing that God is merciful and plans to right wrongs encourage you when you mess up? How can it encourage you when something tragic happens to you?