



Talking through the weekly message helps you turn information into application. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you make the next move.

City Group Icebreaker: *Questions to Get You Talking*

- Why do we enjoy counting down the days until something exciting?

Key Scriptures: 21 *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.* 22 *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel"—which means, "God with us."* **Matt 1:21-23**

28 *The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."* **Luke 1:28**

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. **Gen. 39:21**

MTG Scriptures: Read **Luke 3** in its entirety.

Big Idea of the Message: Advent is not just about passive waiting; it's about active preparation for the fulfillment of God's promises.

Message Study: The Essential Questions

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- How can we rejoice for promises that haven't been fulfilled yet?
- Why is it so important to remember the historical reality of the Christmas story—and the waiting that happened beforehand?
- Are you waiting expectantly for Christ? What does that look like?
- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?

Move Up. Connect to Christ

- Our God is not a god that is far away—distant or an uninvolved Creator. How does knowing God is with you, has been with you and will be with you impact your love for God?
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Start Praying. *Lord, deepen my love of You. Help me to love you more than all things.*

Move Out. Connect to Culture.

- What quick fixes or sloppy short-term solutions are you tempted to put your ultimate faith in? How do these quick fixes or sloppy short-term solutions hinder you from loving your near ones?

Start Praying. *Lord Jesus, I want to join You in better loving my neighbors. Teach me, to see others as you would see them. I ask also for your forgiveness. I have failed to show grace to our neighbor. Help me to refine these gifts you have given us, love others as self.*

Move In. Connect Culture to Christ.

- During our own time of waiting for the redemption of the world, we can easily be tempted to keep our focus so singularly on what we're waiting for that we neglect the job we have to do in the meantime. How can you actively prepare and participate for the coming fulfillment of God's promise to redeem his creation?

Start Praying. *Lord Jesus, I want to join You in your mission. Send me, as an ambassador to share Your good news with _____. Help me use truth as a light to guide me, and grace as a hand to hold the weary. Help me to be your disciple.*

Application Point: We can live expectantly and in preparation for the full realization of God's redemption of his creation.