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## Long Expected Jesus: The Advent of Peace

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Small Group Discussion Questions*

### **Getting Started**

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion.

Expect God to move through your time together!

### **Pacing Your Group**

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

### **Scripture Reading**

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

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### **Observation: What does this scripture passage say?**

*During this advent season we will be looking at an Old Testament prophecy concerning the first advent, an example of it's fulfillment in the New Testament birth of Jesus, and in our anticipation of the second advent. Take some time to read from these three passages: Isaiah 9:2–7, Isaiah 40:1, Luke 2:25–32, 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

1. What connects the concept of Peace in these four passages?
2. The “Consolation of Israel” that Simeon is waiting for is to be the fulfillment of Isaiah 40:1. How is Jesus the “Comfort of Israel”?
3. What is Paul’s prayer for the Church at Jesus’ second coming in 1 Thess 5:23-24?

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### **Reflection and Discussion: What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?**

*How do the scriptures connect to everyday life.*

4. Peace as it’s described in Scripture is not the absence of conflict, but rather the experience of wholeness regardless of circumstance. Shalom (Hebrew word of peace) is about our whole wellbeing. In what ways does the good news of Jesus bring that kind of peace?
5. Knowing that Judea was in grave danger from the Assyrian Empire when Isaiah penned Isaiah 9:2-7, what encouragement are we to take knowing that the Prince of Peace is our Prince of Peace regardless of our circumstances?
6. Christmas is the celebration of the first advent. Advent means “arrival”. And at Jesus’ arrival Simeon said to the Lord that he could “depart in peace”. It was a long time from Isaiah 40:1 till Simeon’s day. What does it mean to wait for God’s peace and how do we do that?
7. The God of Peace (1 Thess 5) does a supernatural work in us as we wait for the Second advent of Christ. However it is super easy for us to look for peace in things that are not God. What are areas of you life that you are tempted to make “idols of peace” instead of looking to Christ as your peace?

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### **Surrender: Responding to God’s voice.**

8. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

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We’re here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your life group!

Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

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