



Morning Star Las Cruces 2025 Discussion Questions

November 30, 2025 (Advent 1)

Series: A Jarring Christmas: Resisting Despair with Defiant Expectation

Title: New Hope

Text: Matthew 24:37-44

1. When you think about beginnings such as new seasons, new routines and new years, what feelings come up for you? Excitement? Anxiety? Curiosity? Something else?

2. Advent is the season that precedes Christmas, and it centers on the coming, the arrival, of Jesus. Candles serve a big part of Advent. What's a memory you have that involves candlelight? Maybe a worship service, a celebration or even a moment of quiet? What made it meaningful?

3. What stood out to you in the message titled *A Jarring Christmas: New Hope*? Did a phrase, story or image help you rethink what hope looks like in uncertain times?

4. Read Matthew 24:37-44. What words or images catch your attention as you hear Jesus' call to be awake and ready? In what areas of your life might you be "asleep" right now? What (or who) could use some renewed attention from you?

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5. Jesus compares the coming of God's future to the days of Noah, not to frighten us, but to remind us to stay alert to God's presence. What does "staying awake" look like in your everyday life?

6. Advent invites us to practice expectation rather than fear. How might this passage invite you to cultivate hope even when the world feels unpredictable or overwhelming? What does hope look like, practically speaking?

7. Read Isaiah 2:1-5. How does this vision of peace, justice and God's mountain help deepen your understanding of Advent hope? What hope do you have for these weeks before Christmas?

8. Read Romans 13:11-12. Paul writes, "The night is far gone; the day is near." How do these verses echo Jesus' call to readiness in Matthew 24? What attitude or posture is Paul encouraging?

9. As you think about Jesus' call to stay awake, what inner shift (courage, patience, trust, letting go) might God be inviting you to make during this Advent season?

10 How can your group pray for you as you enter Advent, especially as you seek to stay awake to God's transformative work in your life and in the world?

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