

O COME EMMANUEL

November 30, 2025



BIG IDEA

In a world that feels the lonely exile, Advent calls us to bring the piercing light of Jesus and the Shalom that comes with it.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-7

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 8:19-22; John 1:5, Matt 4:15-16; Matt 5:9.

RESOURCES

Advent: The Season of Hope, by Tish Harrison Warren

Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ, by Timothy Keller

Surprised By Hope: Rethinking Heaven, The Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church, by N.T. Wright.

SEEN

1. Prior to meeting, individually spend time meeting God in the key scripture.
2. Read the passage of scripture two times slowly and reflectively. The goal is to allow the text to sink in and resonate personally. Look for words and phrases that stand out to you and write them down.
3. Read the passage slowly one more time, pay extra attention to the parts that stood out to you the first time. Consider how these words or phrases might apply to your life right now. What might the Lord be inviting you to?

4. Respond to God in prayer, express your thoughts, feelings, and desires in relation to the scripture. Rest now in God's presence, allow for silence and stillness. Listen for God's voice and experience a deeper connection with him.

SHAPED

Thinking about the Sunday sermon what stuck out for you in what was said?

In your time reflecting on the key scripture what stood out to you?

Where in your life do you feel the ache of "lonely exile" – the sense that things are not as they are supposed to be? What false hopes have you turned toward? What would it look like to leave with Heaven's Peace?

How does the perspective shift for you knowing that we did not have to ascend to knowledge, but rather God came down – *A child was born, and a son is given?*

Rejoice, Rejoice! What would it look and feel like in your life to respond with genuine rejoicing in the season you are in?

NT Wright says, "Where there is beauty, there is hope." Where have you stopped noticing or creating beauty because dispar feels more realistic? What beauty can you bring to your world?

SENT

Just as we are blessed to be a blessing, in being seen by God, he invites us to truly see others. This week be mindful, is God nudging you to notice someone in your community? Reach out to that person.

