

Grow Group Sermon Summary and Discussion Guide

Speaker: Pastor CJ

Title: Hope of the Cross

Series: Advent

Text: Colossians 1:15-20

- Advent marks the beginning of the anticipation for the birth of Jesus.
 - Today, it is about remembering his birth and knowing that his life is an example of what it means to follow God while remembering the sacrifice that he made on the cross to save us.
- Christmas, though it is full of joy and beauty, also carries pain and suffering for some. It's not always the easiest season to be in for different reasons, but the first Sunday of Advent reminds us that there is hope.
- Colossians 1:15-20 is a reminder that Jesus...
 - Reveals the Father
 - Rules over all things
 - Reconciles all of creation
- The Bible is full of stories that we often view individually, but it is a continuous narrative of God's grace and love for us.
- It is a reminder that after the fall of humanity, God sent his son to live, die, and come back to life to save us and restore what was broken.
- Even though we live in the "time in between" now, we can hold on to the hope that the promise of Jesus' return will one day come.
 - Time in between is our present circumstance or state of creation.
 - We were once with God (Garden) – fall of humanity (Adam and Eve eating the fruit) – Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection – "time in between" (Now) – Restoration of all things (Jesus' return)
- When we think of the birth of Jesus and remember the life that he lived, we are reminded of the love of the Father for us.
 - We are reminded that even before we realized our need for Him, He sent His one and only Son to save us and reconcile all things to him.
- Advent is a season of anticipation.
 - It is a season of remembering Christ, but it is also a season of anticipating what was promised, which is the restoration of all creation.

Discussion Guide

1. Have someone pray before you begin and ask God to give you understanding as you study His word.
2. Icebreaker – When you hear the word “Christmas,” what’s the first thing that comes to mind?
3. Read 1 Colossians 1:15-20
 - a. What stood out to you? Why?
 - i. This does not always have to be an answer; it can be a question or concern that can be discussed and answered by other people in your group.
4. Advent invites us to remember Jesus’ birth while also anticipating his return. How does holding both remembrance and anticipation shape the way you personally experience this season?
5. Jesus reveals, rules, and reconciles (Colossians 1:15-20). Which of the three roles – revealing the Father, ruling over all things, or reconciling creation – stands out to you the most right now, and why?
6. We live between Jesus’ resurrection and his promised return. What does it look like for you to live with hope and faithfulness in the “time in between,” knowing that Jesus will one day restore all things?
7. Take some time to bring up prayer requests and pray for one another.