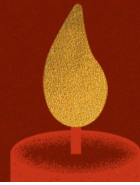


the season of ADVENT

December 10, 2023



SERIES OVERVIEW:

Join us for the season of Advent as we unpack the story of Jesus - our true hope, our source of peace, the bringing of joy, and the one who shows us the true love that God has for us. God's salvation is a person, and that person's name is Jesus. This advent, may we remember that Biblical joy is the relational reality of being fully known and fully loved by God. Jesus has come to be the Savior, and the joy of Jesus is contagious.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Austin jokingly talked about Michigan vs Ohio State, but this is a great example of the reality we can sneak into by placing unrealistic expectations upon people, situations, or circumstances. Talk together or journal about where you may have misplaced expectations of happiness that are dependent upon worldly things.
- **Read together Luke 2:8-12.** Throughout the Scriptures, we see the reality of a God who pursues us - in and of ourselves, there is nothing good and nothing we can do to save ourselves. But God - talk about the joy that is found in a God who pursues.
- What does it look like for you or your community to mirror the God who pursues? Not because someone is worthy of it but because this is the way in which God loved us, as displayed in Jesus.
- We can sometimes confuse the gift with the Giver, and we can confuse the pursuit of being saved from our Savior. What savior are you in pursuit of? What does it look like to worship Jesus in the middle of your circumstance - even if that circumstance has yet to see saving from?
- Austin gave us two ways to maintain the posture of joy, whatever season we are in, through abiding in the presence of Jesus and abiding with the body of Christ. **Read John 15:9-11 and Acts 2:42-47.** Meditate on key words and phrases. Encourage one another through how you currently live this out in your every day and pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen each to take a step closer to abiding daily with God's Word and with others.