

The background of the top section is a dark red color. In the center, there is a lit candle with a yellow flame. Above the candle, the words "the season of" are written in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "ADVENT" is written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The background is decorated with concentric dashed white circles and small white stars.

# the season of ADVENT

December 17, 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 love is displayed in Jesus - and in His holiness He displays a love that is not conditional or dependent upon us but rests upon the work displayed in Jesus Christ upon the cross.*

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor John pointed out that Christmas movies often involve a turning point when someone's worthiness to be loved is revealed. Can you think of an example of this pattern of storytelling in what you've watched this season?
- Read ***Ephesians 3:17-19***. How does truly grasping the reality and extent of God's love transform our lives? How does our awareness of our unloveliness qualify us to experience this love?
- Satan wants to steal, kill, and destroy. In what ways has the enemy distorted and destroyed our understanding of love as defined by God - both in the world and even in the church? ***Take time to pause, allowing the Holy Spirit to move any frustrations to intercession and prayer before the Father, asking that He would empower you to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of His love.***
- Pastor John reminded us that we cannot pass on what we haven't received and that receiving God's love isn't a one-and-done but something we must do daily - through abiding with Him to remember His love, we are then able to reflect that love in our words and actions. How do we balance growing in knowledge and growing in love? How do these go hand in hand?

- Tastes of genuine love in other people are like Sam's Club samples (limited, can guide you to so much more!) of the love of God. Who are 1-2 people who came to mind for you, as Pastor John shared, who have given you a genuine taste of the love of God? What was different about them?
- We cannot pass on genuine divine love to other people if we haven't grasped the love of God. How does human love - such as in Christmas movies when we realize the worthiness of others to be loved - fall short and even lead to division?