

Advent (2 of 4)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, December 4, 2022



Sermon Series: The Anticipated Christ

Sermon Title: Your God Will Come

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 4:14-21; 7:18-23; Romans 12:9-21

Sermon Focus: The prophets foretold that God would come to deliver his people and liberate a broken creation. These prophecies generated hope in God's people and built up an anticipation of the Lord's judgment. And so, by the first century, there were certain Messianic expectations about how God would judge the world and fulfill his promises. In the second message of our series, Pastor David invites us to see how Jesus challenges our own expectations and reveals the judgment of a loving God.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Isaiah 35:1-10 together. Isaiah is poetically telling of a time in the future when God will restore creation. What about this passage encourages you? What about this passage challenges you?
2. Read Luke 4:14-21 together. Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 (a messianic text) and then indicates that he is the Messiah come to fulfill the Scriptures. Notice that Jesus stopped in the middle of a verse and didn't read about the coming "vengeance" of God. That is because Jesus knew they had expectations that did not accurately portray the truth about God and his Messiah. How does this challenge your own portrait of God? In what ways in the past has God challenged your expectations about his ways, his will, etc.?
3. Read Luke 7:18-23 together. Pastor David indicated that we still stumble (or are often offended) by Jesus because he challenges our expectations about how God should think, act, judge, deliver, etc. Like John the Baptist, have you ever doubted the wisdom and power of God in your life? How did God show you that you can trust in his way, and that it is better than your own way?
4. Read Romans 1:18-25 and 12:12-21 together. Pastor David said that "wrath" and judgment is about God allowing people to experience the consequences of their sin and rebellion. He said, that our sins "trigger a built-in mechanism within creation so that when we transgress the design of the divine programmer, we experience that system (in a sense) rejecting the virus that is pervading it." How do you see this happening in our world today?
5. Now read Galatians 6:7-10 together. Paul is saying that we can trust God's ability to judge the world and that nobody can "mock" his justice. He says that we reap what we sow. Therefore, we simply need to be patient in seeing the seeds of evil give birth to the "wrath" that follows. Is this helpful to you as you learn to wait on God to judge sin and injustice in the present evil age?

Also, Paul is saying that we should not tire in doing good to everyone we meet, especially those who have mistreated us. Why? Because our good deeds (and choosing not to seek vengeance) is how we show that we trust in God's ability and power to judge righteously. Who do you need to love and trust God to deal with in his time? How can you pray for them, bless them, and show them love?