



COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

“When we learn to read the story of Jesus and see it as the story of the love of God, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves--that insight produces, again and again, a sense of astonished gratitude which is very near the heart of authentic Christian experience.”

– N.T. Wright

OVERVIEW

Week 4 Advent // Love

The work of advent is to believe that God loves the world enough to rescue it from oppression, evil, violence, and death. Many of us have been taught this in concept, and then heard Bible stories used to reinforce that the way God works is always – if there is enough faith or will – dramatic and immediate. We are taught to have faith and wait. But if you really have enough faith, we are told that you will see God move. This, while not ill intentioned, has convinced many of us that the everyday things of our lives are not spiritual enough to count as God “moving”. We may begin to believe that God is not with or for us in the less extraordinary moments of life. This idea has convinced us that our prayers are not spiritual or fervent enough, and that our spiritual activity is not up to par. It has told us that we are not enough because if we were, God would come. The “God-with-us” narrative of advent turns this on its head. The coming of Jesus is much more about a movement than a single spectacular moment. It is about everyday things converging with the divine to make it all sacred and holy. This is a way that God loves us. Allowing ourselves to be immersed in a story where God is making everything, every moment, every bit of growth and change, sacred.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the sacred moments that you may have missed in your life today or this week?
2. What do you think God may have been showing or reminding you of in that moment?
3. Who inspires you to, “see God in the little moments” by being more attentive to God’s daily interaction with them? What can you learn from them?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are asking for grace and patience to see your love in the little moments of our lives. It is easy to rush from one moment to the next and it is even easier to assume that you are only present in the biggest moments of our lives, but we know that is not true. This Christmas, teach us more of your love so that we may love us more like Jesus loves us. Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!