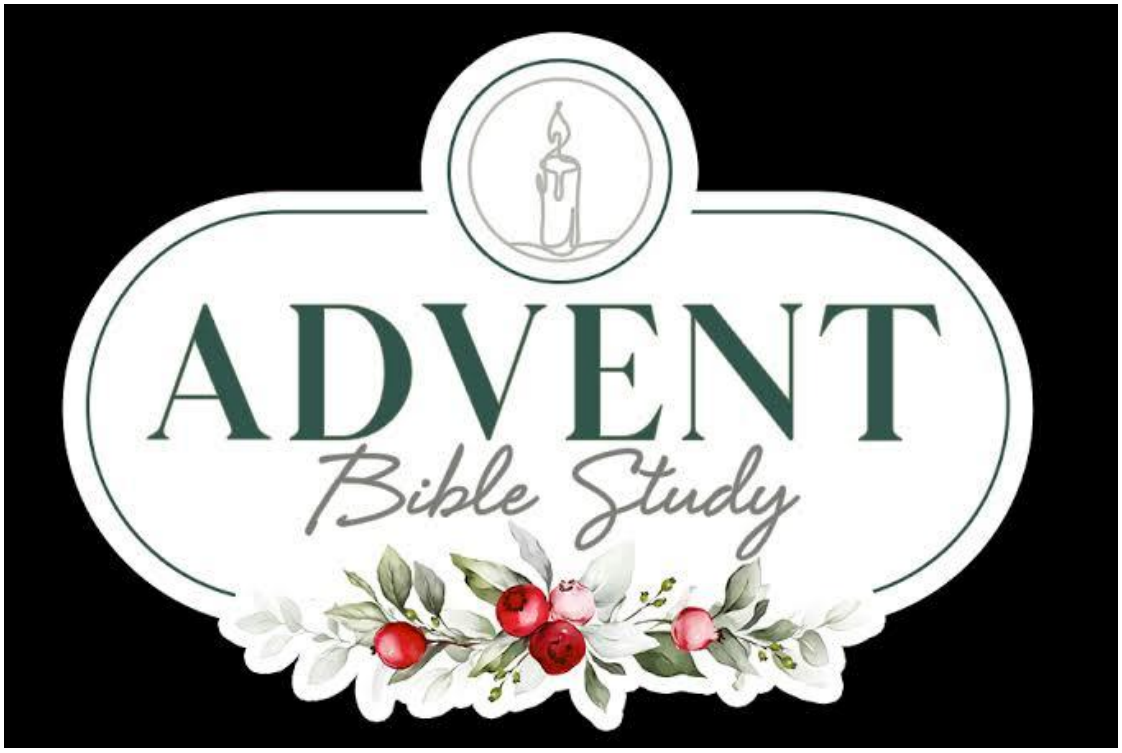


6 Studies for Advent

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to answer the Bible Study Questions before meeting together for the Bible Study. Some people like to prepare beforehand whereas others like to think through the Bible Passages in a group setting. It is also not compulsory to answer ALL the questions.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you. Note: this study uses the **NIV Bible version**.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information ***MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP***

Study 1 – Hope in the Coming Lord ***(Sermon on 29th November 2026)***

Before we begin:
What is Advent? Why is it important?

What is prophecy?

What is Hope?

Read <u>Psalm 122</u>

1. What type of Psalm is this? Who wrote the Psalm?

2. What are the people rejoicing about?

3. How is Jerusalem described?

4. What is the prayer about? (vv6-9)

5. **Ponder**: How does this Psalm relate to Advent?

Read Matthew 26:36-44

6. What does Jesus say about the day or hour of His return? (v36)

7. What Old Testament time does Jesus compare His return to? What was it like back then? What will it be like when He returns? (vv37-41)

8. What does Jesus encourage us to do? (vv42-44)

9. What example and warning does Jesus give in verses 45-51?

10. **Ponder**: How does this passage relate to Advent?

Read Romans 13:11-14

11. What is Paul calling us to do in verse 11?

12. What is Paul calling us to do in verse 12?

13. What is Paul calling us to do in verse 13?

14. What is Paul calling us to do in verse 14?

15. **Ponder**: How do these Bible Passages give us ***hope***?

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **this study?**



What ***light globe moment*** did you have in this study?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, as Christmas approaches and we reflect on Jesus first coming; help us to meditate on the events of that first Christmas and what Jesus came to give us. And Father, as we reflect on the promise of Jesus' second coming, help us to be alert, watchful and prepared for Him. Help us to put aside the distractions of this world, clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus and grow more in love and faithfulness to Him. Thank you for the hope we have in Jesus. In His Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 2 – The Promise of Peace ***(Sermon on 6th December 2026)***

Before you begin: What is Peace? Is there a difference between peace in this world and peace we receive from God/Jesus?

Read <u>Isaiah 11:1-10</u>

1. Who is the ***shoot*** described in verse 1? Why a ***stump***? Why ***Jesse***? Why a ***Branch***?

2. What will the coming one be filled with and what does that look like? (v2)

3. What will this coming one be like and what will He accomplish (vv3-5)

4. List the beautiful pictures described in verses 6 to 9? Do you find this encouraging?

5. What does this coming one ultimately achieve? (v10)

6. **Ponder**: In what way does this passage describe ***peace***?

Read Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

7. Who is the Psalm about? Who wrote the psalm?

8. How is the King described?

9. Why is the King worthy of praise? (vv18-19)

10. How does this Psalm relate to Advent?

Read Matthew 3:1-12

11. Who is preaching and what is the message? (vv1-2)

12. Who does John quote and what is the message? (v3)

13. Who is John like from the Old Testament? (cf.2 Kings 1:8) (v4)

14. What does John's ministry look like? (vv5-6)

15. How does John confront the Pharisees? (vv7-10)

16. How does John's baptism of people differ from the baptism that 'the one after me" will administer?

17. Who is John preparing people for?

18. **Ponder**: In what way does Matthew 3:1-12 relate to Advent?

19. **Ponder**: How does Matthew 3:1-12 relate to peace?

20. **Ponder**: Does Matthew 3:1-12 require a response from us? If so, what?

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **this study?**



What ***light globe moment*** did you have in this study?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Gracious Father, thank you for sending Jesus, the prince of peace. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, help us to appreciate more fully Jesus' first coming and to be well prepared for His second coming. In His name we pray, Amen.

Study 3 – Joy for the Weary ***(Sermon on 13th December 2026)***

Read <u>Isaiah 35:1-10</u>

1. What reversal is there in verses 1&2?

2. What reversal is there in verses 3&4?

3. What reversal is there in verses 5 to 7?

4. How is the highway described? (v8)

5. What picture is described in verse 9a?

6. What's the outcome in verse 10?

7. **Ponder**: How do these verses relate to Advent?

Read Luke 1:46-55

8. What's the name of the song? Look back to earlier in the chapter, what prompted this song?

9. List the things Mary is joyful for in verses 48&49?

10. List the things God has done in verses 50 to 55?

11. What does this song show about Mary's knowledge of God's Word?

12. **Ponder**: Is Mary's joy simply because she is having a baby, or is there more to it?

Read James 5:7-10

13. What are we to be patient about in verse 7? What example of patience is given?

14. Why are we to be patient in verse 8?

15. What command and what warning are given in verse 9?

16. Whose example are we to follow in verse 10?

17. **Ponder**: Why is it worth it for us to be patient?

Read Matthew 11:2-11

18. What concerns does John have? (vv1-3)

19. How does Jesus respond to John's concerns? (vv4-6)

20. What question does Jesus ask the crowd? (vv7-9)

21. Who does Jesus quote in verse 10?

22. What does Jesus mean in verse 11? How does His statement relate to us?

23. **Ponder**: How is there ***joy*** in this passage?

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **this study?**



What ***light globe moment*** did you have in this study?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, we are truly joyful for that Jesus came to save us; we are truly joyful because God keeps His promises. Help us Father, to be patient as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus. In His name, Amen.

Study 4 – Love Comes Near ***(Sermon on 20th December 2026)***

Before you begin: Discuss, how useful are "***signs***" from God? Can you think of some "signs" God has given?

Read <u>Isaiah 7:1-17</u>

1. What crisis does King Ahaz of Judah face? (vv1-9)

2. What does the Lord tell King Ahaz to do? (vv10-11) How does Ahaz respond? (v12)

3. What sign does the Lord give? (vv13-17) What is the "near" and "far" fulfilment of this sign?

4. What key elements of the sign point to the birth of Jesus? (v14)

5. **Ponder**: Why is the virgin birth important?

Read Matthew 1:18-25

6. In verse 18, Jesus is described as the Messiah? What does Messiah mean?

7. How did Mary become pregnant? (v18)

8. What plan did Joseph have and why? (v19) What does that tell us about Joseph?

9. How would you feel in Joseph's position?

10. What changed Joseph's plan? (v20)

11. What vital information does the angel give Joseph? (v21)

12. What prophecy is fulfilled? (vv22-23)

13. What obedience does Joseph show? (vv24-25)

14. **Ponder**: What is significant about the name/title "***Immanuel***"?

15. What motivation is there behind God giving us "***Immanuel***"?

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **this study?**

 What ***light globe moment*** did you have in this study?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Father God, thank you giving us the sign of "Immanuel". Thank you that you loved us so much, you allowed your Son to leave Heavenly glory and become "God with us" (Immanuel). In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Study 5 – The Light Has Come ***(Sermon on Christmas Day 2026)***

Before you begin: Why is Christmas Day important to you?

Read <u>Isaiah 9:1-7</u>

1. What promise is there in verse 1? How might the areas mentioned, relate to Jesus?

2. What is promised in verse 2?

3. What is promised in verse 3?

4. What comparisons are given in verses 4 and 5?

5. Who is promised in verse 6?

6. What responsibilities will the promised son have? (v6)

7. List each title of the promised son and explain what each title means?

8. What does this promised son's rule bring? (v7)

9. What does his reign look like? (v7)

10. How is this all possible? (v7b)

Read <u>Luke 2:1-14</u>

1. What is the context? (vv1-3)

2. Why did Joseph and Mary have to go to Bethlehem?

3. What does the name "***Bethlehem***" mean? Why is that significant?

4. What do the circumstances of Jesus' birth tell us about Jesus? (v7)

5. What is significant about shepherds being the first to hear about Jesus' birth? (vv8-9)

6. Why is Jesus' birth "good news"? What bad news does this good news fix?

7. Why is it important that Jesus is from the family line of King David?

8. What is the "sign" given? (v12)

9. What do the words that the heavenly host sing actually mean? (vv13-14)

Read John 1:1-9

10. How is Jesus described in this passage?

Read John 1:14

11. How is Jesus described?

Read John 8:12

12. How does Jesus describe Himself?

13. **Ponder**: What difference does it make to you personally that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world?

14. **Ponder**: If Jesus really is the Promised King, the Light of the World, and God dwelling amongst us, how does that change the way we celebrate Christmas and how we worship throughout the year?

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **this study?**



What ***light globe moment*** did you have in this study?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you that on that first Christmas Day, you sent your precious Son Jesus, the Light of the World, God with us, Immanuel, to bring peace between you and humankind. Please help us to respond by giving you all glory and honour and praise. Please help us to keep Christ in Christmas. In His name we pray, Amen.

Study 6 – Salvation Revealed ***(27-Dec-2026)***

Before you begin: What is salvation?

Read <u>Isaiah 40:1-5</u>

1. What comfort does God promise through Isaiah? (vv1-2)

2. Who fulfils verse 3?

3. What is promised in verse 4?

4. What is promised in verse 5?

Read Isaiah 42:1-6

5. Who is promised in this passage?

6. What will he be like?

7. What is his mission? (v6)

Read Malachi 3:1

8. Who is the messenger? Who is he preparing the way for?

9. Where does the Lord come to and how is he described?

Read Luke 2:22-52

10. What do Joseph and Mary do in verses 22 to 24? Why? (see Exodus 13:1-2, 12-15; Leviticus 12:1-8)

11. What does this say about Joseph and Mary?

12. What does verse 24 say about Joseph and Mary's circumstances? (see Leviticus 12:8)

13. What is significant about Jesus being brought to the temple? (cf. Malachi 3:1-4)

14. Simeon's prophecy in verses 25 to 32 declare Jesus is the "***light for revelation to the Gentiles***" and the "***glory of your people Israel***" (verse 32). What do these titles reveal about the universal significance of Jesus? (cf. Isaiah 42:6)

15. How does Simeon say that Jesus will 'affect' people in verses 34 to 35a?

16. What specific prophecy does Simeon direct at Mary in verse 35b?

17. Why is it significant that both Simeon and Anna, who were elderly and devout, were among the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah?

18. In verse 38, Anna spoke about Jesus birth fulfilling the hopes of Jerusalem's redemption. What does she mean and how is it still relevant today?

19. **Ponder**: What can we learn from Simeon and Anna's example of devotion and faith?

20. We don't have many details about Jesus' childhood, but what are we told in verse 40?

21. Jesus (aged 12) stayed back at the temple (verse 43). Why do you think Jesus, even at this young age, was so focused on His Father's house and His mission?

22. What do we learn from Jesus' posture in the temple—"sitting among the teachers, listening, asking questions"? (v46)

23. How do the teachers respond to Jesus? Why is this significant? (v47)

24. What does verse 49 reveal about Jesus' understanding of His relationship with God the Father? What "Father's business" has God placed in front of you today?

25. Why are Mary and Joseph "***anxious***" (v48) and why did they "***not understand***" (v50)?

26. What's significant about verse 51?

27. Where do we need to grow in wisdom and stature like Jesus? (v52)

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **this study?**



What ***light globe moment*** did you have in this study?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You that in Jesus You have kept every one of Your promises. We thank and praise You for sending Your salvation into the world. Teach us to wait faithfully as Simeon and Anna did, to trust Your timing, and to welcome Jesus as Your light for all people. Help us, to walk in obedience to You as Jesus did. Make us a people who recognize Your Son, delight in Him, and follow Him all our days. In His name we pray. Amen..