

# Journey CHURCH

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## Leader Guide Session 1

### Outline:

#### **I. The advent season is about remembering that God will come through for us.**

- A. The story of the Messiah's arrival on earth is a story of waiting.
- B. God had promised His people, the Israelites, that He would send a redeemer.
- C. Throughout the Old Testament we find prophecies foretelling the Messiah, including Genesis 3:15, Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Psalm 110, and Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

#### **II. Four hundred years had passed between the writing of the last verse of the Old Testament and the arrival of Jesus.**

- A. There was no prophet, voice, promise, or recorded act of God during this time.
- B. But then, into the silence, angels appeared to shepherds and told of the birth of the Messiah.
- C. What this says is that even in the silence-in the waiting God is still working.

#### **III. All of us know what it means to be stuck in a time of waiting ... and we rarely like it.**

- A. You are likely in some place of waiting-waiting for a child to come home, a spouse to tell the truth, a test result, a pregnancy, a court sentence, a miracle to happen.
- B. You may be waiting for the holiday season to end so normal life can resume.
- C. We are not good at waiting, but the reality is that God is not often in a hurry.

#### **IV. While we are in this time of waiting, we need to keep our focus on God's promises.**

- A. We are waiting on many things, but what we're really waiting for is Jesus to come.
- B. When He returns to this world, He will put an end to the pain of this planet.
- C. Advent is knowing that Jesus has already won and not losing sight of that truth.

#### **V. In Revelation 21, we get a picture (and promise) of how it will all come down in the end.**

- A. We are getting a new heaven and a new earth (verses 1-2), where we experience God's very presence (verse 3), comfort, and joy (verse 4).
- B. Everything that is currently wrong with this world we will be set right in that day.
- C. This is where our season of waiting ends-the future that God has in store for us.

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## **Discussion:**

1. We all know how Christmas is celebrated in our society, but how familiar are you with the tradition of Advent? What role has it played in your past Christmas seasons?
2. As discussed in the video, Advent is about waiting in expectation and remembering that God comes through on His promises. What are you waiting on right now? What does it mean for you to wait in expectation that God will come through on His promises?
3. The Lord promised that He would send a Messiah ... and then His people waited in silence for 400 years for Jesus to arrive. Why do you think God made His people wait? How do you typically respond when you don't hear from God as quickly as you want?
4. Is there something significant that you continue to wait on God to provide? What evidence have you glimpsed, if any, that God is working while you wait?
5. How does the birth of Jesus give you hope that God is actively working for your good and on your behalf, even though you may not be able to fully see it?