



Small Group Study Guide for December 2, 2018

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The season of Advent is upon us! This season of waiting and preparing gives us an opportunity to practice patience as we look forward with **hope** to the second advent of Christ. When God sent His Son 2,000 years ago, He was fulfilling a promise that He had made to His people – that He would send a Savior. With confidence and trust, we can count on God to fulfill His promises in His good and perfect timing.

Getting Started:

1. What do you look forward to the most about the Christmas Season?
2. What do you look forward to the least about the Christmas Season?
3. Do you or does anyone in your family have a special way to count down the days until Christmas?

In the Word: Romans 8:22-25

4. Paul says that the whole creation is eagerly awaiting the second coming of Christ and the renewal of all things. In what ways do you see creation “groaning”? How do we see the world lamenting the current state of affairs and longing for renewal and restoration? Think of this in terms of natural events (geological, environmental, climate), human interaction with creation, and human events.
5. We also “groan inwardly” as we wait for our redemption. How have you personally been “groaning” lately? Note: it is not complaining! It is groaning because we have put our hope and trust in the Living God and anticipate His redemption and restoration. We still grieve, groan, and our hearts break over how sin and Satan wreak havoc in our world.
6. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**. What does Paul mean in Romans 8: 23 when he says that we are eagerly awaiting the “redemption of our bodies”?

7. Why is “hope that is seen” actually no hope at all in vs. 24?

8. Why does HOPE help us to wait with patience? Is there a link between the two?

Read Matthew 12:15-21

9. The “Servant Songs” of Isaiah are powerful prophecies of the coming Messiah. Take a second look at how this prophecy of Isaiah’s describes what Jesus came to do. Write down your connections and then discuss as a group.

10. Finally, how does Jesus give YOU hope?

Prayer: Thank God for the HOPE we have in Christ, and the message of hope that Advent and Christmas brings. Ask God to strengthen the witness of your life as we go through this season, so that people may see the light of hope in our lives. Pray for the events and services of our church family, that they too may bring glory to God and draw people to Christ.

Next Week: Next week we look at some of the ways we misplace our hope in the things of this world, and how Jesus is the only sure and certain anchor of hope.

Advent Devotions: Be sure to pick up a copy of the Lutheran Hour Ministry Devotions from the church lobby, or sign up to have them sent to your email inbox each day. Also – check out the Portals of Prayer for December. They are all about HOPE! There is also a young family Advent resource called Advent A to Z.