

brought to the light

ADVENT FOR ALL WHO NEED IT



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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How to Use This Resource

This resource is designed to be used with a group, but you can also walk through it on your own. Each session includes a short video teaching followed by a set of discussion questions. Start by watching the video, then use the guide to talk through what stood out, what challenged you, and what questions you're still sitting with.

When writing *Brought to the Light*, I tried to be as honest as possible. I asked difficult questions, some of which I had been holding for a while, but never had the courage to voice out loud. I hope you'll do the same in your discussion. Don't be afraid to say, "I'm not sure what I think about that." If a question comes up while you're watching, I encourage you to write it down and bring it into the conversation. Wrestling, when done with faith, leads to deeper revelation of the goodness and love of God.

At the end of each session, you'll find a prayer prompt. Don't skip it. Make time each week to pray together. My hope is that each week you'll find yourself asking for prayer *and* praying for someone else. Whether you're leading a group or just going through this personally, keep prayer a regular part of your rhythm.

If you're leading a group, your job isn't to guide people to perfect conclusions—it's just to help create space where people feel safe to be honest, ask questions, and pray for one another.

Our hope is that this resource would not simply be an information download, but would help you create space to encounter God—together. Not just to talk about Him, but to meet with Him in the middle of your questions, your conversations, and your prayers.



Session 1

Hope



Questions

1. Was there a moment when Jesus shifted from an idea to a living presence of hope in your life? What changed for you?
2. Is there anywhere you find yourself trying to manufacture hope through effort or optimism rather than receiving it as a gift? What would opening your hands to that gift look like this week?
3. Psalm 33 speaks of “waiting in hope.” Is there anywhere in your life you feel like you are waiting in hope? What has that experience been like?
4. Hope is described as “an anchor for the soul” and Isaiah 40 promises renewed strength to those who hope in the Lord. Have you had a time in your life when you have experienced hope in this way?
5. Picture a space you inhabit—work, neighborhood, online—where cynicism and hopelessness dominate the scene. How could embodied Christian hope break through there, and what might that look like?
6. Instead of asking, “Do I have hope?” ask, “Where do I need Jesus to meet me right now?” Where are you encountering hope—or longing to—and how can the group pray with you?



Session 2

Peace

3 Shifts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Questions

1. When you think about peace in your life, what does it usually look like?
2. What part of the message unsettled or expanded your understanding of what it means to experience peace?
3. Can you recall a time when you encountered the presence of Jesus right in the middle of chaos or pain? How did that shape you?
4. Where do you find yourself striving to create or control peace, and what would it look like to surrender and receive it instead?

5. Jesus promises both peace and trouble in John 16. What does that tension teach you about the kind of peace He offers?
6. How might your community look different if the church lived as if peace-making was a shared mission and calling?
7. What's one practical way God might be inviting you into the work of peace-making in your family, community, or church? How can the group pray for you and support you in this?



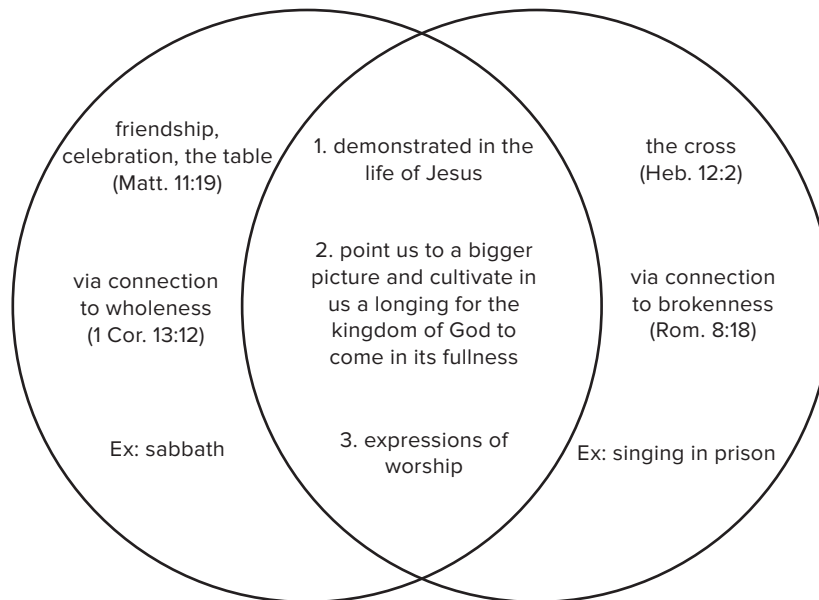
Session 3

Joy

JOY

Joy in God through creation,
goodness, beauty, truth, etc.

Joy in God in the midst of
suffering, hardship, difficulty, etc.



Questions

1. When you think of the word *joy*, what comes to mind? Does it feel accessible or far off in your current season?
2. Can you name a moment when you experienced joy through something good—like a meal, a conversation, or time in nature?
3. Have you ever experienced joy *in the midst* of pain or hardship? What did that look like, and how did it shape your faith?
4. Which is more difficult for you: to rejoice and give thanks to God in the good or to hold onto joy in the hard? Why?
5. How do you see the Holy Spirit growing the fruit of joy in your life right now?
6. Is there something you're longing to experience joy in again, something that's grown dull, heavy, or painful? After each person shares, pray for one another.



Session 4

Love

Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not
easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always
perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4–7 NIV)

Questions

1. Can you recall a moment when God's love became more than an idea—when it became real to you? What happened, and how did it change you?
2. How have you experienced the temptation to “fix yourself up” or prove your worth, even after encountering God's love?
3. God's love doesn't just reach us, it forms us. How has experiencing God's love changed how you see yourself, others, or the world around you?
4. Have you ever thought of practices like reading Scripture, prayer, or Communion as ways of receiving God's love, not just duties to fulfill? How does that shift your perspective?

5. Which phrase from 1 Corinthians 13 stood out to you, and why do you think it caught your attention today?
6. Is God's love leading you toward a particular person or place right now? What might it look like to respond?
7. We never outgrow or overmature our need for the love of God. Is there anyone in the group who wants to experience His love afresh this Advent? If so, take a moment to pray for one another.