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# ADVENT

***Swartz FBC Leader Discussion Guide***



**SERIES:** Advent

**TITLE:** The First Advent - Gospel Expectation

**BIG IDEA:** The first Advent (arrival) of Jesus is the coming of the Christ who came to bring His people grace, peace, and Himself. His people long awaited His arrival with great Gospel expectation.

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## SUMMARY

Isaiah explains the future reign of Christ in the future advent of Christ as the descendent of the line of Jesse. Christ is the true and better David, the second Adam, the ultimate King who brings hope, peace, and Himself. This is the foreshadowing of the first advent of Christ. In this first coming, we see that God has had this plan in mind from the beginning and that He is eternally aware of His people and their wellbeing. Christ came for His glory and our good.

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## TEXT

**11** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
**2** And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
**3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
**4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
**5** Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

**6** The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.  
**7** The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
**8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.  
**9** They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.  
**10** In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand  
as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire,  
and his resting place shall be glorious.

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## **1. THE FIRST ADVENT BRINGS THE PROMISE OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GRACE.**

God sent help to the Israelites in this prophecy and simultaneously promised the Messiah in the same text. God's promise is as good as the fulfillment. We trust both. God has promised to care for us and shepherd us. He has given us all the reasons we need to continue to trust His providence.

- What does the prophecy about the first advent of Christ show us about God's care for us?
- How does the first advent bring us present grace from God and affect our lives presently?
- How does the first advent bring us the promise of future grace?
- How would our lives be different without the first advent?

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## 2. THE FIRST ADVENT BRINGS THE PROMISE OF A RIGHTEOUS KING.

This description of Christ means that God saw fit to give us a true and righteous King who planned our redemption before the foundations of the Earth. If God was this mindful of us prior to the existence of humanity, and if He did all this work to bring about our good for His glory, how important must we be to Him? This should give us such magnificent hope in our lives to know that we are not alone, we are not forgotten, we have a righteous King who doesn't look at outward appearance or listen to the gossip about us but knows us and places His credentials on our record.

- Why is it important that God doesn't look at us based on the court of human opinion?
- How does God's long term plan for His people bring us practical hope concerning our righteous King?
- How does this text help us to see that God is aware of our needs?
- How does this text help us to have certainty that God will always provide for us?

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### **3. THE FIRST ADVENT BRINGS THE PROMISE OF COSMIC AND PERSONAL PEACE.**

The imagery here is of peace between even animals where there is an obvious tension. The point is that Christ will bring peace that is so much greater than political peace and relational peace that it will even infiltrate nature and the animals will live in harmony. This text is speaking of Christ's reign in the future, but we sense this even now in our own lives as we experience Christ's peace. As believers, we experience personally and in part, what will be cosmic and full in the future.

- How have you experienced the peace of God in your life?
- How have you seen the peace of God working on a larger scale in the world around you?
- What is one circumstance where you saw the care and peace of God working in even the small things in life?
- If God is aware of both big and small things and shows His care for both, how does this bring us practical peace as we walk with Him?