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# ADVENT

***Swartz FBC Leader Discussion Guide***



**SERIES:** Advent

**TITLE:** The Second Advent: God with Us

**BIG IDEA:** The Second Advent is Christ with us now as a present reality for our good and His glory. He is our present help in suffering, He is for us, He is active in our lives.

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## **SUMMARY**

One of the central concepts in Christianity is the relationship of God to His people. The Garden was the reference point for humanity for communion with God. The struggle of humanity through the centuries is, in essence, to return to Eden. Perfectly living in the unveiled presence of God means to live free of sin and darkness because He is the perfect light that drives away this darkness. In the Old Testament we see God sustain His people by His presence with them, yet it was a veiled presence. He ministered to His people through His covenants, prophets, priests, and kings. They longed to return to the unveiled presence of God which was available in the Garden. There was deep expectation in the mind and heart of the Jewish people. They wanted the Messiah to come to restore this relationship. The advent of Christ brought the fulfillment of the promise. The first advent, the arrival of the Christ child was consistent with the prophecies about Him.

Christ is the second Adam, the One who did what the first Adam could not. He will bring us into perfect relationship with God like it was in Eden. Christ is the true and better Prophet, Priest, and King who mediates the covenant of grace for His people. When the veil tore in the temple, God made His dwelling with His people not in a place made by human hands, but in the people, He made in His image. The second advent is the arrival of Christ to indwell His people now. This is a current promise. This is not an expired promise or a delayed promise. This is the reality we get to experience now. Our prayer will be for His will to be done and His Kingdom to come on Earth as it is in Heaven.

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## **TEXT**

<sup>9</sup> But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.<sup>10</sup> For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source.<sup>[b]</sup> That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>12</sup> saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

<sup>13</sup> And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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## 1. HE IS WITH US IN OUR SUFFERING.

***Application Question: Are you looking to the suffering of Christ to relieve your suffering?***

- What are common ways we struggle in daily life? (Any example big or small is good.)
- How does it help us to know that Jesus tasted death for us?
- How does Jesus' suffering put our suffering into perspective?

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## 2. HE IS WITH US AND ON OUR SIDE.

***Application Question: Are you living like Jesus is observing your life from a distance?***

***Or are you living like Jesus is on your team?***

- Why is it important to understand that Jesus isn't just with us, He is actively on our side?
- How does Jesus stepping down into flesh help us to relate to Him better?
- How does this truth tether us to Jesus relationally?
- What does this reveal about the love and grace of God?

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### 3. HE IS WITH US TO HELP.

***Application Question: Who are you leaning on?***

- How does a person practically lean on the Lord for help? (How do we bring this down from concept into practical reality?)
- What does it mean that Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest? (Start by discussing the function of a high priest.)
- This verse so clearly and powerfully ties together this text: <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
  - What does this tell us about Jesus and how He looks at us?
  - How can this act as a catalyst for change and hope in our lives?