

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Advent**
*Mighty God***OVERVIEW**

Advent, which is derived from the Latin word “adventus,” means coming. For the Christian Church, Advent is the season marked by waiting and preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth in history (his first coming) and the anticipation of Christ’s triumphant return (his second coming). This is the time of year set aside to think about the coming of God’s Son to earth. As we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward, anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

APPLY // MATTHEW 13:31-33

1. As individual and as a corporate body, how can we stop and wonder at God this Advent season?
2. Read Matthew 13:31-33.
3. What is Jesus’s main point in these parables?
4. What does this tell us about the type of Kingdom Jesus is bringing/will bring?
5. In what ways do these parables compete with the counsel of the world?
6. What challenges or encouragements do these parables have for our personal evangelism? Personal discipling of other church members?
7. What challenges or encouragements does Jesus teaching have for us as a corporate church?

STUDY // LUKE 5:12-32

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Preliminary Notes/Thoughts

Our Advent series is based upon Isaiah 9:6-7. This passage informs us that the Messiah – Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us – will bring a government that has no end. His Kingdom is forever. We also learn 4 titles/names for this Messiah: Wonderful Counselor; Mighty God; Everlasting Father; Prince of Peace.

This week we’ll focus on “Mighty God.” The title “Mighty God” is title of the Lord God himself (cf. Isaiah 10:20–21; Deut. 10:17; Neh. 9:32; Jer. 32:18). So this tells us the Messiah is God himself. Many places in the New Testament show us how this God will use his power and who will be in his Kingdom.

To examine that, we’ll look at Luke 5:12-32.

1. Read Luke 5:12-32.
 2. Verses 12-16 focus on Jesus healing a leper.
 - a. Why was leprosy such a big deal? (see Leviticus 13 & 14).
 - b. Notice the text says, "Jesus...touched him." Why is that such a marvelous act?
 - c. What do you notice about Jesus words to this man?
 - d. Why does Jesus tell this man not to tell anyone?
 - e. How do these verses help us understand what type of Mighty God/King Jesus is?
 - f. What do these verses tell us about the type of people this King has in his Kingdom?
 3. Verses 17-26 focus on Jesus forgiving sin.
 - a. In verse 20 it says Jesus "saw their faith." What does that mean? What does these words tell us about the nature of faith?
 - b. Why are the Pharisees angry with Jesus?
 - c. Why can only God forgive sins? What is Jesus claiming by forgiving sins? Why can Jesus forgive sins?
 - d. How do these verses help us understand what type of Mighty God/King Jesus is?
 - e. What do these verses tell us about the type of people this King has in his Kingdom?
 4. What does the healing of the leper and the healing of the paralytic tell us about the Kingdom of God?
 5. In verse 27, what's the significance of Jesus saying "Follow me"?
 6. What's the posture of the Pharisees and scribes in verse 30? Why do you think they are acting this way? How can we be guilty of the same thing?
 7. Verse 31 summarizes what verses 12-26 teach. How does verse 31 inform your understanding of Jesus as Mighty God who ushers in a forever government?
- General Bible study questions:
 - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: In what ways does this Advent season fill you with wonder and love for Jesus?