

Advent

T H E K I N G ' S C O M I N G

WEEK 1: *Hope*

Advent means "arrival". This season reminds us of the time of waiting the people of Israel experienced while waiting for the first coming of Jesus. It also invites us into what it looks like to live in this season of waiting for Jesus to come again. We will look at scriptures that help us better understand a different theme each week of this *Advent* season.

Read: Isaiah 2:1-5

In Isaiah 2, the last days are described, when Jesus will reign from the highest mountain over the earth, and there will be no more war because of his presence. After describing what Jesus' rule will look like, Isaiah challenges the descendants of Jacob to live in the Messiah's reign right now.

- What does it mean to walk in the light of the Lord?
- What would it look like to live in the Messiah's reign in your life right now?
- Where is there darkness in your life that God's light needs to illuminate?
- What does the phrase "the light of the Lord" convey about the nature of walking with God?

Read: Romans 13:11-14

Here the Scriptures continue the theme of light and darkness. Paul tells us that the night is nearly over and that the day is almost here.

- In what aspects of your life do you need to wake up from your slumber (v11)?
- Are there parts of your life that you are sleepwalking through?
- Can you look and act like a Christian, yet still be asleep toward God? How so? Why do you think that's true?

In v12, we're told to put aside, or some translations say cast off, the deeds of darkness, and put on the armor of light.

— What responsibility does that indicate that we as individuals have in that process?

— What are the works of darkness talked about in this passage?

— How do those contrast with what we are to put on?

— What do you personally need to take off in order to put on Jesus?

— What significance do you find in putting on Christ being equated with armor?
How does this equip us in our walk?

Read: Matthew 24:42

We are told to keep watch, because we do not know when the Lord will return.

— What does it look like to keep watch for the Lord, while still going about everyday life?

— What does it tell us about our assurance of Christ's return if we are meant to live our life in preparation and waiting for him?

— How does our current waiting compare with Israel's waiting, referenced in what we read from Isaiah 2:2-5?

— How comfortable are you with waiting, particularly when you have no idea when the wait will be over?

— How does waiting on God differ from waiting on earthly things?

— What are some things you can put into practice that will help you be better or more purposeful in your waiting?

Prayer: Father, as we celebrate the first coming of Jesus and anticipate his second coming, help us to be awake and ready to do battle. We battle against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil. Clothe us with Jesus Christ that we may walk in his light, which is able to banish darkness. Fill us with hope in you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.