

WEEK 1 | JEREMIAH 33:10-16

ADVENT 2023 | A THRILL OF HOPE

PRAY.

Consider opening your group by praying. Here are a few prayer points to posture your heart for advent.

- Settle yourself by praising God for sending his Son for our salvation.
- Vocalize any anxiety and fears you're carrying into advent.
- Ask the Lord to fill you with hope as you consider the second coming of Jesus.

THEMES.

The meaning of the word "Advent" comes from the word "*adventus*," which is the Latin translation of the Greek word "*parousia*," meaning "coming" or "arrival." By at least the 4th century onward, the church has observed Advent to help God's people remember the birth of Christ and, more specifically, to prepare for his second coming.

As we observe Advent in 2023, let's do so with that same posture: celebrate the inbreaking of God into our world through the incarnation of God's son, AND as a time for us to prepare, anticipate, and have our hearts set on fire as we yearn for his 2nd Advent to earth.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group.
2. How has your understanding of hope changed over the years? How have you reconciled biblical hope with the pains and struggles of the world?

Biblical Hope: a confidence in God whose goodness and mercy are to be relied upon and whose promises cannot fail.

3. Are you feeling weary today? If you're comfortable, share why with your group.
4. Jeremiah 10:14 starts by saying, "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when..." Does the future orientation of that verse encourage you or discourage you?
5. Read verses 14-16. At Christ's second coming, he promises to bring justice, righteousness, security, and a sure identity for his people. Which aspect of God's promise are you most looking forward to? Why?

PRAY TO CLOSE.