

Advent GC Gathering Guide

In keeping with last year's Advent tradition of remembering through partying, we want to use our "non-Gathering" Sunday to host GC Gatherings. Essentially, this is a time for your Gospel Community to get together and spend some time mixing Scripture, prayer, and Communion with laughter, conversation, good food, good drink, and friendship, celebrating the arrival of God's Kingdom in and through Jesus.

Guide

Prep: Plan to share a meal together at someone's home (potluck is probably the easiest way to do this). Have someone bring bread and juice for communion. Ask everyone to watch the second video (Peace) before you get together. If you want, write the questions below on note cards and scatter them around the table.

1. Before you eat, receive Communion together using the call and response below. Give thanks for the food and your time together.
2. When everyone has their food, have someone read the first Scripture out loud. Let everyone discuss freely what the verse made them think, wonder, etc. Point people to the questions if they need help sparking conversation. Do your best to stay on topic for at least a few minutes, but eventually let the conversation naturally drift to something else. After a few minutes, repeat this process. Keep repeating the reading-conversation until you have gone through all four Scriptures. (If possible, save the last reading for dessert.)
3. Finish up by talking about how you plan to engage the community together this Advent season.

Scriptures

1. Isaiah 11:1-10
2. Psalm 122
3. Matthew 3:1-12
4. Romans 15:4-13

Questions

- How does this passage fit into the bigger Story of the Bible? Why is this passage important?
- What does this passage—and the stories around it—tell us about the Peace of God and His Kingdom?
- How does this part of God's Story—along with anything else we've remembered during the season of Advent—clarify or shape your own definition and desire for Peace?

Communion Together

- *Who is invited to the Lord's Table?*

**All are invited;
the young and the old,
the rich and the poor,
the lowest and the least;
sinners and saints together in communion.
Come find your place here
where there are no strangers or foreigners or outcasts,
only brothers and sisters in the sight of God.**

- *Why do we give thanks at this table?*

**We give thanks because Jesus showed us hope,
we give thanks because Jesus is Hope.
He was called Immanuel, "God with us".
He came to rescue us from our sin and brokenness, adopt us into God's family and set the
Story of Creation straight.
We give thanks that he was and is and will continue to be the Savior, Christ the Lord.**

- *Why do we eat and drink at this table?*

**We eat because on the night before Jesus died,
he ate with his friends.
He gave them bread and said,
"This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
At that same meal he took a cup of wine and said,
"Drink this cup. This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."**

- *Receive together the body and blood of Christ*