



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

**Advent:
Anticipation**

MIDWEEK GUIDE

**Advent:
Reflection**

2017

December

2017 December MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: Advent: Anticipation

1. Reflect on God's personal plan of salvation for you:

a. How have you been able to see more of its perfection so far? If His plan seems confusing right now, how can you find strength to continue trusting in Him?

b. How does this influence your anticipation of the future?

2. How might some of God's perfection be experienced when disaster or tragedies occur?

3. Consider what Joseph says in Genesis 50:20, "...you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring about as it is this day, to save many people..." What does this tell you about our human understanding of God's plans?

4. Think about your lineage and how God intentionally choose each one of your ancestors.

5. How does taking time for reflection enhance our worship of God?

6. Advent is the beginning of the Christian calendar. How can taking time for reflection this Advent season influence what you anticipate in the new year?

7. PERSONAL TAKE-HOME: Take time this Advent season to consider how God has created beauty in **your** life, in the midst of sin and shame.

Psalm 23: 4-6

For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Bible References

John 5:39 NLT
Matthew 1:1-17

1 Corinthians 13:12 NIRV
Matthew 28:20

Genesis 1:31

Session 2: Advent: Reflection

1. Why does knowing that God dwells among us at all times and never leaves us fill you with confidence? With humility? With the desire to glorify God in all that you do?

2. Share how God has already fulfilled promises in your life.

3. What can you say that you know about God when you reflect on Jesus' life and teachings? Share an example or two with the group.

4. *God with us*. What meaning did this have at the time of Jesus' birth? What meaning does it have to you now?

5. In the Bible verse that was mentioned in the video, "*and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it*" (John 1:4-5), who or what is the darkness? (Consider the other definitions of "comprehend" or other translations of the Bible.)

6. The video states that "there is no greater gift we can give to others than to share this truth of the Gospel with them." How would you explain the gospel to someone that hasn't heard it before?

7. The video ends with a famous verse from Luke 2 when the angel greets the shepherds in the field: *Do not be afraid...good tidings of great joy...to all people! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!* How will you bring glory to God this Advent season?

NKJV Study Bible

Luke 2:14 – Glory here refers to praise given to God. Goodwill toward men: The phrase means that people are the objects of God’s goodwill. In ancient Judaism this phrase described a limited group of people who were the objects of God’s special grace. The promise of peace (1:79) and goodwill would come to those who welcome God’s only son.

8. Do you consider yourself a person of light? How can your faith in Jesus illuminate the lives of those around you?

Bible References

John 1:4-5, 9
John 8:12

2 Corinthians 4:6
Galatians 4:3-5

Luke 2:10, 14