

SIMPLY ADVENT LEADER'S GUIDE

Week One - Hope

Group Overview

Advent begins with hope—the confident expectation of God's promises fulfilled in Jesus. Just as Israel longed for the Messiah, we also wait with hope for Christ's presence in our lives today.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Invite the group into stillness. Ask for God's presence and for hearts to be filled with His hope.

Reflections on the Daily Readings (15–20 minutes)

- What stood out to you from this week's readings?
- Which "Take Time To..." action step challenged or encouraged you?

Discussion (15 minutes)

- Where in your life do you need to experience hope right now?
- How does remembering God's promises steady you during times of waiting?
- What does "Immanuel—God with us" mean for your daily walk?

Weekend Reflection and Questions (10 minutes)

- Where do you sense hopelessness creeping in, and how can God's hope meet you there?
- How does the candle of Hope remind you to trust in God's timing?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

End with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's promises. Invite prayer requests.

Week Two – Peace

Group Overview

The second candle represents peace—peace not from the absence of struggle, but from Christ’s presence with us.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray for God’s peace to fill each heart and home.

Reflections on the Daily Readings (15–20 minutes)

- Which Scripture spoke peace into your life this week?
- How did you practice stillness and notice God’s peace?

Discussion (15 minutes)

- What does peace look like for you in this busy season?
- How can we, like Mary and Joseph, trust God in times of uncertainty?
- Where do you need Jesus to calm the storms in your life?

Weekend Reflection and Questions (10 minutes)

- How do you see God’s peace flowing into your family, work, or community?
- What steps can you take this week to share Christ’s peace with others?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Conclude with prayer for peace in your group and beyond.

Week Three – Joy

Group Overview

The pink candle reminds us of joy—rooted not in circumstances, but in the presence of Christ.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Ask God to fill hearts with His joy.

Reflections on the Daily Readings (15–20 minutes)

- What devotion or Scripture filled you with joy this week?
- How did you experience joy in ordinary, simple moments?

Discussion (15 minutes)

- What is the difference between joy and happiness?
- How can you bring joy to someone who feels weary?
- Where have you unexpectedly experienced God's joy?

Weekend Reflection and Questions (10 minutes)

- How does joy empower you to share your faith with others?
- How can you carry joy into your Christmas preparations?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

End with prayer, asking God to strengthen hearts with joy in His presence.

Week Four – Love

Group Overview

The final purple candle reminds us of love—God’s greatest gift in sending His Son into the world.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray for God’s love to be poured into your group and community.

Reflections on the Daily Readings (15–20 minutes)

- Which reflection stirred your heart most deeply this week?
- How did you see God’s love expressed in your life or relationships?

Discussion (15 minutes)

- How have you experienced God’s love this Advent?
- Who is God calling you to love in a practical way this week?
- How can you carry His love into Christmas Day?

Weekend Reflection and Questions (10 minutes)

- What does it mean to love as God loves?
- How can your Christmas celebrations reflect His love?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Close with thanksgiving for God’s love shown in Jesus.

Additional Notes for Leaders

- Encouragement: Create a safe environment where everyone feels welcome to share.
- Flexibility: Be attentive to the group’s needs and adapt as necessary.
- Follow-Up: Consider ways to stay connected (text, email, prayer chain) to encourage one another during Advent.