

ADVENT | JOY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DECEMBER 5, 2021 | GYLE SMITH

1/3- Looking Back

Start with prayer and/or worship (reading a Psalm, singing a song, giving thanks, etc.). Re-cast the vision (see example video at www.jesusisthevision.com), review obedience goals from the previous week, and ask how everybody is doing.

Check-in question options:

- Up/In/Out – How are you doing in your three primary relational spheres? (Up: God. In: fellow believers and family. Out: unbelievers)
- Highs/Lows: What was your “high” and your “low” from the past week?

2/3- Looking to Jesus in the Present

Explore this Scripture passage together: **Romans 5:1-8; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Cor. 12:6**

- Discuss the question: “what do we learn from these passages about who God is and what He does?”
- Discuss the question: “what do we learn from these passages about who we are and what we do?”
- Alternative question: “what do we learn from these passages about rejoicing?”

3/3- Looking Forward

Ask Jesus how he wants you to respond (corporately and individually) to what you have heard and learned. You can also practice the following exercise:

- Sit quietly together in Jesus’ presence and ask yourself the question, “How do I respond to difficult circumstances?” Pay special attention to whatever thoughts or feelings surface in your mind and heart, and remain open to whoever the Spirit may want to show you. When you are ready, ask Jesus to help you trust him to transform you and not to be afraid of weakness because He does his best work in it. After some time of listening and reflection, share your thoughts with one another as a group. End your time by praying together, asking Jesus to rejoice this week in whatever comes your way.