

SCRIPTUREDEPTH STUDY PACKS

# The Light Has Come: A 5-Session Advent Study for Your Group

*A 5-week Advent journey through Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and the Christmas story.*

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5-Week Study · Leader's Guide · Free Sample (Week 1)

This is a free sample containing the introduction and week 1 of 5. Get the full leader's guide and participant worksheets at [scripturedepth.com/studies/advent-light-has-come](https://scripturedepth.com/studies/advent-light-has-come).

## WELCOME

# A Word for the Leader

Welcome to 'The Light Has Come,' a 5-session Advent study designed to guide your group through a season of reflection, anticipation, and celebration. As a leader, you have the privilege of shepherding your group through the rich themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, culminating in the wondrous mystery of Christmas: the Word made flesh. This study aims to deepen your group's understanding of the Advent season, drawing each participant closer to the heart of God as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

This study is crafted for small groups, families, and church communities who desire to experience Advent with intentionality and depth. Whether your group is gathering in a living room, a church hall, or over a virtual platform, these sessions are designed to be accessible and engaging for all participants. Each week, we will explore a different aspect of the Advent story, allowing the light of Christ to illuminate our hearts and minds.

Our prayer is that this study will not only enrich your group's Advent experience but also inspire a renewed sense of wonder and worship. As you lead, remember that you are part of a larger story—one that began with the promise of a Savior and continues to unfold in our lives today. May this journey together be a source of encouragement and growth for you and your group.

## How to Use This Study

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Each week of 'The Light Has Come' follows a simple yet profound rhythm: teaching, scripture, discussion, and a worksheet for personal reflection. Begin your session with a brief teaching that introduces the week's theme, setting the stage for deeper exploration. Next, dive into the selected scripture passages, allowing God's Word to speak into the theme and into the lives of your group members.

Following the scripture reading, engage your group in discussion. We've provided thoughtful questions designed to spark conversation and encourage participants to share their insights and experiences. These discussions are a vital part of the study, as they help each member to connect the biblical themes with their own spiritual journey.

To conclude, distribute the weekly worksheet, which offers space for personal reflection and application. Encourage your group to take time during the week to complete these exercises, allowing the Holy Spirit to continue working in their hearts. Each session is designed to last between 60 to 90 minutes, providing ample time for teaching, discussion, and prayer.

As a leader, you have the flexibility to print unlimited copies of the study materials for your group. This ensures that everyone has access to the resources they need to fully participate in the study. We hope that these sessions will be a blessing to your group, fostering a deeper understanding of Advent and a closer relationship with Christ.

# Hope: The Promise of His Coming

WEEK 1 OF 5

Focus: Isaiah 9:2–7; Jeremiah 33:14–16

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in the land of the shadow of death, on them the light has shined. You have multiplied the nation. You have increased their joy. They rejoice before you according to the joy in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the plunder. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as in the day of Midian. For all the armor of the armed man in the noisy battle, and the garments rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born. To us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, on David’s throne, and on his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from that time on, even forever. The zeal of Yahweh of Armies will perform this.”*

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

*“Behold, the days come,” says Yahweh, “that I will perform that good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah. “In those days and at that time, I will cause a Branch of righteousness to grow up to David. He will execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. This is the name by which she will be called: Yahweh our righteousness.”*

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

## Teaching

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As we begin our Advent journey, we focus on hope, a theme deeply woven into the fabric of Scripture. Isaiah 9:2-7 presents a powerful prophecy that speaks into the darkness with the promise of light. The people of Israel lived in difficult times, often marked by oppression and despair. Yet, Isaiah speaks of a great light that will shine on those living in darkness. This light is not merely a metaphor but a promise of God's intervention. The prophecy foretells the birth of a child who will carry the government upon his shoulders, bringing justice and peace. This is a message of hope, reminding us that God is actively working to bring about His kingdom, even when circumstances seem bleak.

Isaiah's prophecy is filled with titles that describe the coming Messiah: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Each title reveals a facet of the Messiah's character and His role in God's

redemptive plan. As Wonderful Counselor, He offers wisdom and guidance. As Mighty God, He embodies divine strength. As Everlasting Father, He provides care and protection, and as Prince of Peace, He brings reconciliation. These titles are not just ancient words but promises that resonate with us today. They assure us that in Christ, we find all we need for life's challenges, and they invite us to trust in His perfect plan.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 echoes this theme of hope and promise. Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, delivers a message of restoration and renewal. He speaks of a time when God will fulfill His promise to Israel and Judah, raising up a righteous Branch from David's line. This Branch symbolizes the coming of a just and righteous King who will execute justice on the earth. In a time of exile and uncertainty, this promise was a beacon of hope for the people. It assured them that God had not forgotten His covenant and that He would bring about a future filled with righteousness and peace.

The hope expressed in these passages is not just for the people of Israel but extends to us today. We live in a world that often feels dark and uncertain. Yet, the promise of Christ's coming reminds us that God is faithful to His word. Advent is a season of anticipation, a time to reflect on the hope we have in Jesus. As we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope, we remember that our hope is not in worldly solutions but in the One who came to dwell among us, bringing light to our darkness.

Hope is more than wishful thinking; it is a confident expectation rooted in God's promises. The biblical hope we celebrate during Advent is anchored in the reality of who God is and what He has done. It is a hope that sustains us through trials and challenges, reminding us that God is with us and that His promises are sure. As we meditate on the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah, we are invited to place our trust in God's faithfulness, knowing that He will fulfill His promises in His perfect timing.

In our daily lives, we often encounter situations that test our hope. Whether it's personal struggles, global crises, or the mundane challenges of life, we can be tempted to despair. Yet, the Advent season calls us to lift our eyes and see the bigger picture. The promise of Christ's coming encourages us to persevere, knowing that God is working all things together for good. Our hope is not in the absence of trouble but in the presence of a Savior who walks with us through it all.

As we reflect on these prophecies, we are reminded of the importance of waiting with hope. The people of Israel waited for centuries for the fulfillment of God's promises. Their waiting was not passive but active, involving prayer, worship, and obedience. Similarly, our waiting during Advent is an active anticipation of Christ's return. We are called to live in a way that reflects our hope, engaging in acts of love and service as we prepare for the coming of our King.

The promise of hope also challenges us to be bearers of hope to others. In a world often marked by despair, we are called to be light-bearers, sharing the hope of Christ with those around us. This can be through words of encouragement, acts of kindness, or simply being present with those who are struggling. As we embody the hope of Advent, we become instruments of God's peace and love, pointing others to the light of Christ.

The Advent season invites us to pause and reflect on the incredible gift of hope we have in Jesus. It is a time to remember that God's promises are true and that His light shines in the darkness. As we journey through this season, let us hold fast to the hope we have in Christ, allowing it to shape our lives and our interactions with others. May our hearts be filled with anticipation and joy as we celebrate the coming of our Savior.

In conclusion, the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah remind us that hope is not just a distant dream but a present reality in Christ. As we light the candle of hope, let us be encouraged by the truth that God is with us, working out His purposes in our lives and in the world. May this Advent season be a time of renewed hope and expectation as we look forward to the fulfillment of all God's promises in Jesus.

## Living It Out

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This week, take time each day to reflect on the hope we have in Christ. Consider setting aside a few moments in the morning or evening to meditate on the promises of God found in Isaiah 9 and Jeremiah 33. Let these passages remind you of the light that has come into the world and the hope that sustains us. As you go about your daily activities, look for opportunities to share this hope with others. It could be through a kind word, a helping hand, or a listening ear. Let the hope of Christ shine through you in tangible ways.

Consider creating a simple Advent wreath at home, lighting the first candle to symbolize hope. As a family or group, discuss what hope means to each of you and how you can encourage one another to hold onto hope during challenging times. Pray together, asking God to fill your hearts with the hope of His promises and to help you be a light to those around you. Let this practice be a reminder of the hope we have in Jesus and the anticipation of His coming.

## Discussion Questions

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1. What does hope mean to you personally, and how does it affect your daily life?
2. How do the prophecies in Isaiah and Jeremiah speak to your understanding of hope during Advent?
3. Can you share a time when you experienced God's hope in a challenging situation?
4. In what ways can we actively wait with hope during this Advent season?
5. How can we be bearers of hope to those around us in practical ways?
6. What are some challenges you face in maintaining hope, and how can we support each other in these?
7. How does the promise of Christ's coming influence your perspective on current world events?

## LEADER NOTES

Begin the session by setting a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Encourage participants to share their thoughts and feelings about the Advent season. This can help create a sense of community and openness.

As you discuss the passages, remind the group that hope is a central theme of Advent. Encourage participants to reflect on how the promises of God have been fulfilled in their lives and how they can hold onto hope in difficult times.

Be mindful of participants who may be experiencing personal struggles. Offer a listening ear and support, and consider closing the session with a time of prayer, asking God to renew hope in each person's heart.