
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Week 2: Preparing the Way...



We tend to think about Christmas in terms of the birth of an innocent sweet baby - and it is! There's another side to the Advent (this word means "coming") Season though: we also look for the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you helped someone else follow Christ over these past 4 months? Share your stories.
2. On Sunday we learned about John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus Christ to begin his ministry. As you think about Sunday's teaching and your answer to question one above, do you think that you continue the ministry of John the Baptist in today's world? Discuss as a group.
3. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-12.**

According to 1:3-5, what has Jesus Christ done for us, and what are the benefits of his grace? When does this salvation come to us? What is the outcome of our faith?

4. While we live in the "last time," there are (according to Peter) trials and testing we will go through. Why? What trials and testing have you experienced in your faith journey? How have these trials and testing helped refine you and grow in your faith?
5. **Re-read 1 Peter 1:10-12**

Peter shares that the prophets prophesied about the grace that would one day arrive. Which prophets is he speaking of? How might John the Baptist's ministry fit this mold? How can you be a prophetic voice of hope and of salvation in Jesus Christ to others in these last days?

6. (15 minutes) Spend time in prayer as a group (a) Pray for one another's needs. (b) Pray for those who you believe are in need of Jesus Christ, and for boldness to share the Gospel with them. Covenant with one another to make a Christmas Eve worship invite to these persons.

BE THE REVOLUTION

We are called to be modern day prophets who witness to faith in Jesus Christ in the last days.

RENOVATING THE HEART

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (*1 Peter 1:3*).