



Advent: Week 1

Date: Sunday 1st December

Speakers: Fiona Kilgour & Lauren Morris

Key Verses: John 1:1-5

Talk Summary:

On Sunday, we used the Christingle to talk about John chapter 1:1-5, which also kicks off our Advent series.



John begins his gospel with a look back at the Genesis story of creation, but from another angle, showing Jesus as fully God and creator as well as human. We talked about how Jesus made and is in control of the world, and how if this is true, we can trust him with everything that happens in our lives.

Next, we looked at the seasons, which on the Christingle are represented by the four sticks and sweets. Some seasons are better than others, and Christmas gives us a chance to reflect on what's happened in the year, good and bad, and the invitation to see what Jesus is doing within it.

Verse 4 says that 'In him [Jesus] was life, and that life was the light of all people.' We talked about what life this means: the life of God, the creator, the life of Jesus who is both man and God, and how the life of Jesus makes a way for us to come into relationship and eternal life with God. We wrapped a red ribbon around the orange to symbolise the life and death of Jesus that saves the world from darkness.

Finally, we read verse 5 again, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' We reflected on the fact that Jesus' light is for 'all people', not just those in the church, so we are called to light our Christingles in church but to take them home (or even into work!) and light them there, praying for the places God has sent us, in Jesus, to be the light of the world. We spent some time at the end of the service praying for those we wanted to invite to the carols services in a few weeks' time using a prayer card.

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?