



Advent: Week 3

Date: Sunday 15th December

Speakers: Andrew McNeil & Adam Pipe

Key Verses: *John 1:9-15*

Talk Summary:

- What the Christmas story says to us is that God's true light is a person, not just a philosophy. God the Father initiated relationship with us through sending Jesus.
- We need light to thrive. Jesus can illuminate our inner worlds and drive out darkness and shame.
- Jesus faced rejection. "The world did not recognise him, his own did not receive him". His family, religious leaders, rulers and even his friends rejected him.
- This rejection culminated at the cross. Jesus was rejected so we could be accepted by God.
- The cross was actually God's plan to rescue the world and to reach out to our lives.
- Jesus never did any damage - to people, or to God's ways. He was never indebted to God or anyone. He had nothing to put right.
- At the cross he absorbed all the "damage" we've done to others, to ourselves and all that has been done to us. The pain we've caused and the pain we've carried.
- He covered all the debts.
- If we receive and believe in Jesus we get the right to become Children of God. That's what we celebrate this Christmas.

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?