

Unwrapping the Names of Jesus: Small Groups

Advent Week 2 (Meeting Dec 7-14)

Group Start:

- **Pray this prayer together:** “O Lord, this Advent we hear again the Baptist’s call to prepare our hearts for the coming of Your Son. So as we ponder the Names of Jesus together, do that work of preparation in our hearts. Bring us to a deeper experience of the *full* truth of who Jesus is. Where that truth calls for repentance, turn our hearts back to you. But above all, allow the beauty and goodness of who Jesus is to draw us more fully to You, and to each other. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

Read the Devotions (Family, Individual) & Do the Matching Question Here EACH DAY

(Note that there’s a challenge and prayer that goes with each day, though you may need to turn the page; adults with kids might want to do it solo first, then decide how much to share based on their kids’ ages.)

Day 1: Jesus = “The Lord is salvation” – at the end of the movie Titanic, Rose says of Jack: ‘he saved me in every way a person *can* be saved.” A bit blasphemous of Jack, but true of Jesus. List as many of the ways Jesus saves you as you can. Then prayerfully adore Him for each. At SG, share what everyone came up with.

Day 2: “Resurrection and Life” – going along with Ciuciu’s challenge (p.28): what DOES it mean to live as one who, in Jesus, is already resurrected into an eternal life that extends beyond the grave? How does that change how you experience or engage the specifics of YOUR daily life (work, school, free time, etc.)? (Also take a moment to adore Him for His gift of eternal life, already present!)

Day 3: “King of Kings” – Name some ways that you might honor Jesus as King of Kings in prayer today (hint: think of specific ways to acknowledge his power and authority, especially in any areas of your life that are “wandering”; and, think of ways to *adore* him for the ways he uses his power and authority on your behalf; you might build on Ciuciu’s prayer, p.31).

Day 4: “The Light of the Word” – The devotion talked about several specific ways Jesus brings light; it also invited you to ask the Spirit to help you SEE how Jesus is doing those things in your life today. What is ONE way, from the book or your life this week, that Jesus is ministering to you AS your *Light*?

Day 5: The Christ (Messiah) = “Anointed One” – Jesus is anointed not only to be King but also to fulfill ALL God’s promises and purposes in the world. He is our Priest, our Prophet, our Wisdom, our Peace, our Justification, our Sanctification, and more. Which divine promise or purpose, fulfilled in Christ, is calling forth your thanks and praise today?

Weekly Capstone: Worship, Activity, Prayer (Do This Dec 6-8)

6. Worship – start your second week of Advent with the worship on “preparation” on p.42-3. Then answer this question: what stood out or spoke to you most in this particular rite of worship?

7. Activity

a. How did last week’s “activity of hope” go?

b. Pick an “activity of preparation” from pp.61-3 (or create your own) to do this week:

8. Prayer: AS A FAMILY, THEN AS A SMALL GROUP, each offer ONE thing you would ask everyone else to pray about. Please be concise and to the point. List everyone’s requests here so you can pray this week!

Then close with this prayer, together: “O Lord, we thank you for meeting here with us this day. You have heard the prayers we have offered; work in each as only you can. And may the things we have discussed today bear fruit in our lives, that we might receive all that Jesus is with all that we are. In His Name, Amen.”

Final Note: you will want to get the guide for Week 3 by Sun, Dec 7, so that you can answer the questions on each of the names you cover this week as you go. Available at slat wall, or download from anncc.