

# LONGING FOR JESUS FROM THE BEGINNING



Share how this first week with the Advent Guide has gone at your house.

What are some plans you have in order to make the most of this Advent season?

Discuss some opportunities that may exist for you as a Life Group this Advent (pp.4-5 of the Guide).

---

## OPENING COMMENT

We typically think of Advent beginning in *Bethlehem* but it actually began in *Eden*. To tell the Christmas story most accurately, we need to begin at the first reference to Christ's coming, Genesis 3:15. From the first moment of judgement, the promise of redemption was there. A promise for a greater Adam, Jesus. A promise that what we gain in Jesus is *far greater* than what we lost in Adam.

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

---

## PART I: *The First Gospel*

### ADVENT BEGAN IN EDEN NOT IN BETHLEHEM

Genesis 3:14-15

The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
*he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.*”



1. Talk about the significance of the *protoevangelium* (first gospel) revealed in v.15. What does it tell you about God that in the first instance of curse/judgement in the Bible, *promise* was there? (Helpful passages: 1 John 3:8; Romans 16:20)
2. What's worse, a bruised (better translated *crushed*) head or heel? This *gospel sighting* in Genesis 3 shows us that pain would be involved for our redemption (cross) but not with finality. Share how the gospel can both bring suffering and help us through suffering?

## **PART II: The First and Last Adams**

### THE GIFT JESUS GIVES IS FAR GREATER THAN WHAT WE LOST IN ADAM

#### Romans 5:14-15

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

1. Talk about memorable gifts that you have received or given in the past. What made them so special?
2. Why is the *free gift* in the text above so significant?
3. Discuss human *longings*. What are some *longings* we have that resemble those of Adam? What are some *longings* we have that can only truly be satisfied or come to pass in Jesus?

## **SHARE & PRAY**

- Take some time to thank God for *hope* in His plan of redemption that was uncovered the very first moment that all seemed *hopeless*.
- Thank God for sending His Son Jesus. Thank him that the lights on our trees and homes are mere imagery for the Light He shone in darkness.
- Pray *big* prayers, asking God to work in mighty, redemptive, gospel-advancing ways this Advent season.
- Spend any remaining time necessary to hear requests from and pray for one another.

