



# *Behold*

• *An Advent Study* •

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LEADER GUIDE

Discipleship and Scripture. They just go together. At IF, we are passionate about discipleship and studying God's Word together. We believe that the Scriptures are the foundation for discipleship. With this study, we hope to provide a tool that encourages studying the Scriptures and guides you into a discipleship relationship.

This leader guide is meant to support you as you lead and provide additional questions for your discipleship pair or small group to discuss as you walk through this study together. We simply want to make your role a bit easier and provide a starting point to get the conversation going.

## *Leader Expectations*

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### GATHER AND FACILITATE CONVERSATION

We recommend that each person read the study daily. Then, once a week, gather as a discipleship pair or small group to dialogue about the daily questions and/or discuss the questions provided in this guide.

### BUILD A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO GO DEEP

There are many ways to study together in a discipleship relationship. However you go about it, we ask that you create a simple and pure environment to come, pray, and learn about studying the Bible.

**Pray:** In preparation for your time together, spend time in prayer. Beg for the Holy Spirit to fall afresh and use your time together for God's glory. Pray that each person would gain a deeper love for God as you spend intentional time studying Behold together.

**Lean on God:** God will have a unique agenda for your group each time you meet. Rely on Him instead of trying to control the conversation. Lean into your own weakness and into His strength and direction.

**Be transparent:** You have the opportunity to set the tone for those around you. If you choose not to be vulnerable, other women may not feel the freedom to be honest. We encourage you to be honest and transparent, creating an environment for others to open up.

**Listen, but also lead:** When women are vulnerable, it is a tremendous risk that needs to be honored. Protect them by not interrupting and instead listening and empathizing. In love, point women back to what the truth of God's Word says in their situation.

**Model trust:** Be open with your group about how you are processing this study. Throughout the study, we must continue to seek God and ask for His help in understanding His Word. These women look to you for an example. We encourage you to be intentional in your relationship with God as we walk through the next six weeks.

## KEEP UNITY A CENTRAL VALUE

Your group likely has different experiences and backgrounds. As a leader, you have the responsibility to keep a spirit of unity within your group. We ask for sensitivity, openness, and a safe environment for everyone to learn together. We encourage you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in demonstrating love to everyone as you learn and process this study together.

## *Supplies*

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- IF:Equip study book for each participant, or access to the study on IFEquip.com or the IF:Gathering app
- Leader Guide
- Bible

Optional: Daily videos. If the daily videos on IFEquip.com or in the IF:Gathering app are important to your discussion, use your computer or phone to play the video for the group.



# Week One

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1. How are you going to embrace the season of Advent this year?
2. What do you think and feel when you hear the word “wait”?
3. How does Galatians 4:4 help you to understand the season of Advent?
4. How does evil affect our faith as we await the return of Jesus?
5. “Immanuel” means “God with us.” How is God with the believer in daily life?
6. Think of a time when you felt God’s peace. Describe it: had your circumstances changed? Your heart?
7. How has God’s mercy and faithfulness equipped you to wait?
8. In what areas do you need to pray for patience, endurance, and God’s help to wait?
9. Is there a theme or verse from this week that has helped you to worship? Share it.





## *Week Two*

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1. Is it hard to think of Jesus as your Healer? Why or why not?
2. Does your body provide you with reminders of your invincibility or mortality?
3. What thoughts come to you as you read of Jesus' healing in Matthew 11:4–6?
4. How does knowing that Jesus was a man of sorrows (Isaiah 53:3) help you in your sadness?
5. How do you remember God's benefits? After reading Psalm 103:1–5, what's your personalized benefit list?
6. Is suffering a sign of God's neglect, the state of the world, or something else?
7. Think of the times you have felt nearest to God. Were they during difficult or easy times?
8. Can you recall a circumstance where God's timing, though not what you'd desired, was perfect?
9. Is there a theme or verse from this week that has helped you to worship? Share it.

## *Week Three*

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1. What does it mean to you that Jesus forgave your debt of sin? (If you are not sure He has, speak to your leader about what it means to trust Christ for your salvation).
2. Name some ways that the first Passover (Exodus 12) foreshadowed Christ's death.
3. How do you define freedom in Christ?
4. What does Christ's sacrifice for us say about how we treat others?
5. What are some of the differences between the way popular culture and the Bible define freedom?
6. Jesus' last word on the cross was tetelestai, which, translated from Greek, means "it is finished." Jesus paid the ultimate price so that we can walk in freedom and live with Him for eternity. How can you walk in the freedom that Christ offers today?
7. What does Acts 13:38–39 mean to you? Can you paraphrase it?
8. Enslavement has threatened humanity since Genesis 3, but one day, slavery to sin and death will be completely obliterated. What's one aspect of living in a fallen world that you can't wait to be rid of?
9. Is there a theme or verse from this week that has helped you to worship? Share it.



## *Week Four*

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1. Define “hope” in your own words.
2. 1 Corinthians 13:13 ranks faith, hope, and love, and states that love is the greatest of all three. Why? Perhaps because hope and faith expire once we meet the Lord face to face. Discuss.
3. In what or whom do you place your trust right now?
4. What are some ways to practice hoping in Jesus during Advent and throughout the year?
5. How does the resurrection of Jesus produce hope in you?
6. How does knowing that Jesus will return again produce faith in you as you navigate a broken world?
7. What is the most difficult aspect of practicing hope?
8. Is there a theme or verse from this week that has helped you to worship? Share it.
9. How has anticipating Jesus during this Advent season changed the way you wait?