



HOPE IS ALIVE

AN ADVENT STUDY

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's 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

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 Hope is Alive 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 four 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.

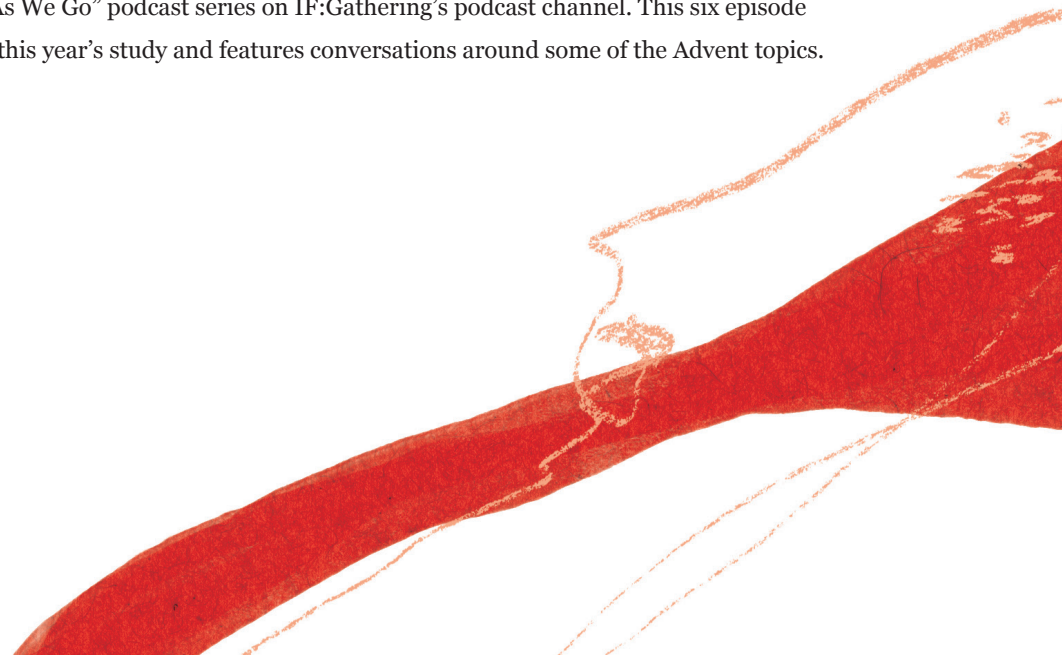
SUPPLIES

The study book for each participant, or access to the study on IFEquip.com or the IF:Gathering app

- Leader's Guide

- Bible

- Optional: The "Advent As We Go" podcast series on IF:Gathering's podcast channel. This six episode series is an extra bonus to this year's study and features conversations around some of the Advent topics.



HOPE IS ALIVE

WEEK -01-

How is your heart right now as you enter into this season of Advent?
Hopeful? Overwhelmed? Anxious? Excited?

How do you feel about Jesus right now?
How do you think He feels about you?

What are you hoping in this season of life?
Is there anything you're doubting?

What characteristics of God the Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit bring you comfort?

How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection change you? Is it
something that you think about daily? Why or why not?

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WEEK -O2-

What's been the hardest part of your week? Do you think
Jesus sees it and understands it?

Where are you looking for healing in your life (or someone else's)? What
parts of Scripture remind you of Jesus' ability to heal and restore?

What part of the holidays are hard for you?

How has God met you in your grief, anger, or suffering? What
characteristics of Him have you held fast to in those times?

What does it look like to ask God to change you instead of your
circumstances? Does knowing that Jesus walked this earth and was
fully human bring any comfort to the trouble you face?

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WEEK

-03-

What feels too big or too heavy in your life right now?

Do you believe Jesus can handle what feels too much for you right now?

Do you believe He can redeem it? What would help you remember that?

What are you waiting for in your life right now?

How does Jesus' presence impact your peace?

Your past? Your future?

What does having an eternal perspective mean to you?

How does it change the way you look at what's ahead?

HOPE IS ALIVE

WEEK -O4-

How do you feel about Christmas being so soon?
What emotions are you feeling?

How can you truly honor Jesus in the midst of a busy
holiday week? What do you want Him to know?

Do you believe God keeps His promises? Why or why not?

How have you seen God's love for you in this Christmas season?

What are you hoping for in your walk with God this next year?
