

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### ADVENT: Meals Together

December 18, 2022



1. When you were growing up, did your parents practice hospitality?

Did it extend only toward family members and close friends, or did they include a wider group of people to the family table?

2. How do you practice hospitality and where did you learn how to do it?

3. Read Revelation 3:14-20. Is Jesus pleased with the church as described in verses 14-18?

What does he hope his rebuke (and their shame) will do?

What will he do?

Why do you think it's significant that Jesus says he will eat with them?

4. Read Mark 3:13-16. Why do the Pharisees care who Jesus ate with?

How do you (or do you) go out of your way to eat with people who are different from you?

What kinds of things do you learn about people when you share a meal with them?

5. Read Luke 10:38-42. What was the real issue or problem in these verses?

Do you sense that Martha was upset about something beyond feeding a bunch of friends a simple meal?

How can we make sharing a meal with someone less fussy and more focused on fellowship?

How can we share a meal with someone this week and use it as a springboard to point to Jesus?

**Challenge: Who will you offer a seat at your table?**

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### ADVENT: Christmas is Not Your Birthday.

December 11, 2022



1. Last week we were challenged to practice Advent. Did you do so, and what did it look like for your household?

Was it difficult to remind yourself to see Jesus in the midst of everything else?

2. Read Acts 20:35. At this stage in your life, are you more excited about giving gifts at Christmas or receiving them?

Can trying to find the perfect gift for someone take your focus away from the one whose birth we're supposed to be remembering at Christmas?

3. Read James 1:17. What are the good and perfect gifts, and how can you share them with your family and friends this Christmas?

4. Read Matthew 2:1-12. What's unusual about the Magi's visit?

Were the gifts the main reason for the visit?

What kinds of gifts did they give?

Why did they give those particular gifts?

How do you think those gifts were used? (Hint... what's happening in verse 13?)

5. Read Matthew 2:2 & 11 again. How can you make worshipping Jesus a greater priority than giving gifts to someone else this year?

6. In the sermon this week there were three gift suggestions for Jesus. Can you remember what they were?

How do these three suggestions help us to focus on Jesus?

7. Read Matthew 5:23-24. What's important about this verse as we think about giving gifts to Jesus or anyone else this Christmas?

**Challenge: What gift can you give to Jesus this Christmas?**