



“O Come, Emanuel” Luke 1:8-17

Introduction

Advent is a season that invites us to look ahead in anticipation for the second coming of Christ. Often, we only focus on the first coming, the incarnation of Christ at Bethlehem, and that is good and right; but we need to heed the invitation to look ahead as well. The question that drives us is, “Are we ready?”

Discussion

- What is your favorite part of this season?
- Has your church experience in the past used Advent to look ahead or only look back?

Going Deeper¹

- Read Luke 1:5-17. What stands out to you about the text?
- Why are the details given in vss. 6-7 so important for the story?
- What stands out in the description of who John will be in vss. 14-17?
- Why do you think Zechariah struggles to believe this announcement (vs. 18)?
- Was the Zechariah’s punishment too harsh (vs. 19-20)? Why or why not?

Application

- What is your biggest takeaway from this text?
- When you pray for the Lord to move, do you do so with an anticipation that he will actually move? If not, how can you change that?
- What are some practical ways you can begin to prepare yourself for the coming of the Lord?
- How can we be in prayer for you?

¹ Scripture references are from the NIV.