

Advent Sermon Series #2
Thanksgiving
Psalm 136

1. Why is thankfulness or gratitude to God an important part of our Christian life? In what ways do you give thanks to Him on a regular basis in your life?
2. Read and reread the first line of verse 1 (Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good), and the chorus that recurs throughout the 26 verses of the psalm (His love endures forever). Make a list of desperate situations or seasons when you witnessed His care and goodness. Take time to thank the Lord for His steadfast love.
3. God pours out His blessing on us every day. List as many reasons as possible to why you often fail to give Him thanks. In what ways can you cultivate more gratitude in your life?
4. Why do gratitude and trust in God go hand in hand? Can we truly be defined by one without practicing the other?
5. Write a prayer asking God to cultivate in you a grateful heart. Ask Him to help you by the power of His Spirit to enable you to always see His goodness in the midst of whatever trials you may face.

Advent Series #3
Promised Joy
Psalm 146:5-10

1. Share an occasion when you were waiting for something or someone (e.g. for a loved one to return, for a delivery of an item, etc.)

Read Psalm 27:13-14

2. Why does the psalmist exhort the people to “Wait for the Lord?”

Read Psalm 146

3. What reason does the psalmist give for God’s people to not depend on others?
4. Ps Jeremy gave 12 attributes of the deliverer we are to wait for. Which one resonates the most with you? (i.e. Helper, creator, promise keeper, deliverer of the oppressed, feeds the hungry, frees the captives, healer, upholds the humble, loves the upright, looks out for foreigners, cares for marginalised & frustrates the wicked).
5. Which of the four “ways” of waiting is something you think we (the church) are lacking in? (i.e. Waiting with Patience, Prayer Anticipation, Purpose & Praise).
6. [Personal question, share as you are comfortable] As you reflect upon the way you “celebrate” Advent and Christmas, do you think you are longing for Christ to return? (See Rev 22:20)

Advent Sermon Series #4**Final Expectancy****Luke 2:1-7; 25-32**

1. How does Caesar's decree, Mary's travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Joseph during her pregnancy and her birth in Bethlehem help you view your less than ideal circumstances differently?
2. Whether we understand it or not, our God is constantly working behind the scene for our good. His providential hand is always at work. What implication does this fact have for the way you view your circumstances?
3. **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)** How can this verse help you in the midst of a difficult situation? Take time to memorise the verse.
4. Waiting for God to act is hard. Silence is even harder. How do we live in the tension between Jesus' promise in **John 14:14, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it"** and our experience with what we perceive as "unanswered prayer"? Think of a time when you experience this. Share with your group.
5. When you allow yourself to look in anticipation to the day of Christ's coming again, what thoughts stir in you? How would your life be different if you live continually with an awareness that He may be coming back any moment?
6. What is the one big takeaway for you from the sermon today? How can you apply it to your life?

Christmas Sunday
God Speaks
Hebrews 1:1-4

1. Go round the group and demonstrate how one would “speak” to a baby.

Read Psalm 19:1-4a

2. How does God speak through His creation? (see also, Rom 1:19-20, 10:18)
Share an occasion when you were awed by God’s creation.

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

3. Share some ways in which God spoke through the prophets? (e.g. Moses at Mt Sinai in Ex 19:16-19, Daniel through a dream in Daniel 2:19).

4. What do you think was the central message that the prophets proclaimed?

5. From Hebrews 1, how does Jesus “speak” for God? (Heb 1:2-3)

6. How is Jesus a superior “voice of God” compared to other means by which God speaks (i.e. through creation, angels and the prophets)? (Heb 1:3b-14)

7. [Personal question, share as you are comfortable] How would you like God to speak to you as we come to the end of the year? As we look ahead to 2023, share how you can become more open to God’s Word, Jesus speaking into the silence of your soul.

Pledging

To pledge or to present your tithes and offerings, go to – <https://www.hvmc.sg/giving>



Life Group

To join a Life Group at HVMC, go to – www.bit.ly/HVMCLifeGroups



Serving

To serve at HVMC, go to – www.bit.ly/HVMCServe

