



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Christ of Christmas Present

12.9.12

Grace DC Announcements

- **Christmas in Story and Song** is this Sunday at 5:00pm in Calvary. Please invite your friends and family to join us as we sing carols and read through the Christmas story. Email Matt@gracedc.net for questions.
- **Children's Christmas Play** is this Sunday at 4:00pm in Woodward Hall. Come see a new vision of the Christmas story, written and directed by Christin Siems. Email matt@gracedc.net for any questions.

Discussion Leader:

Happy Advent — may the joy of God's fulfilled promise give you much comfort this season. Reading the Bible passage as a group and wrapping your conversation around this passage is why we come together — to know God. Pray for God's word to reign supreme in your talk. Read through all the questions prior to the group meeting and select a few questions — do not attempt to answer all of them. God's word informs us about our hearts but does not leave us there — read the good news.

Read Hebrews 2:14-18

Warm Up

- What is the group's knowledge of Satan? Discuss why it's important we talk about Satan during advent. The martyrs we know received their martyr title upon death, but with Jesus, he is born a martyr— How so? Why is Jesus' death so important when celebrating His birth?
- Name examples of how sin is seen as virtue — how Satan spins sin so it looks appealing to us. (Example: greed can be spun to appear as the virtue of being frugal).
- As immigrants that come to America bring with them their culture, Jesus, a divine immigrant, brings his culture. Based on His life on Earth, what can you expect heaven to be like?

Going Deeper

- Talk about the many significant parts of the verse "... He himself likewise partook of the same things that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death..." Why did Jesus' mission require him to be human to defeat Satan?
- What is Jesus doing right now?
- Why is it so important that we know and remember that Jesus suffered? How does this knowledge strengthen our relationship with God?
- What does it mean that Jesus prays for us? If our sins are forgiven what is there to pray for?

Read the Good News

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.
Ephesians 5:8-9

Prayer Reflection

Does your Christmas celebration just include a birthday cheer for Christ? Take time to give thanks for God coming near to us to defeat sin when Satan thought he was conquering the world. Where do you see yourself taking the bait of sin and getting hooked? When you don't care enough about your own sin, Jesus prays for you. Take comfort in knowing the Son of God, a human that was tempted daily like you and me, prays for you this Christmas.