



GRAB GATHER GROW

A simple study you can just grab, gather a group of people—either family, friends, co-workers, folks from the gym ... and grow your faith. During Advent add an Advent Wreath. This week light two of the four candles.

OUR THEME THIS WEEK

Drosselmeir: A Godfather's Love

OUR THEME VERSE

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

OPENING CONVERSATION

First impressions are not always final impressions. Talk about a time when you received a gift and you were not sure it was a good or bad gift at first.

Read together our Scriptural Foundation for this week:
Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 1:34-38

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, as we come together, we are reminded of your promise that wherever two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, there your Spirit will be also. Make us ever more deeply aware of your presence, both in our midst today and throughout this season of Advent. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(pick one or more depending on your time)

We often hear from the angels the phrase "Be Not Afraid." Discuss our current context, for our community, our Minnesota, our nation, our world. What situations or crisis might lead you to be afraid? How is God with us in these situations/crisis?

Pastor Rich believes that in Luke 1:34-38, Mary's first reply to the angel as a "your God" kind of moment, and the last response to the angel as an "our God" moment. What does he mean?

Isaiah 40:1-5 is referred to as one of the Suffering Servant passages of Isaiah. A prophecy for Christians telling us what our suffering servant, our savior, Jesus Christ, will be like. It is vague as is prophecy. It does not tell us everything we want to know but everything we need. What do you think this text is telling us about Jesus Christ?

In The Nutcracker, Drosselmeir seems absent for most key moments. But he is there at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of the story. Likewise, Scripture talks about God as one who is, was, and is to come. How have you experienced the God who was? God who is? God who is to come?

SERVICE

(pick one or two of the following service events and act)

Our Change for Change this and the next two weeks is giving to Heifer Project International. This Change for Change is sponsored by our Children's Ministry. Go online and check out this wonderful ministry. Consider donating to Heifer Project and purchasing one of their ornaments at Church.

BUMC is collecting Warm Things this December. Collect any warm things you would like to donate or purchase and bring them to the fellowship hall. We are collecting for men, women, children and youth so all sizes of warm things are needed. We're also in need of any size propane tanks (they will be used at the Homeless Camp on Hiawatha in Minneapolis).

Join us this Wednesday, the 12th, for encounter Christmas. We are going to break up into two groups - one to Cub Foods in Brooklyn Park and the other to Cub Foods in Brooklyn Center. We are going to ring and sing! A few of us who can't sing will ring the Salvation Army Red Kettle bell and the rest of us will sing carols. Dress warm, bring a box of large candy canes with you and join us. Meet at the church at 6pm.

As a **Gathering**, put together a meal and deliver it to someone you all know who is having a "blue Christmas." (someone lonely or alone, someone grieving the loss of a loved one; someone struggling with mental health issues ...

Home Huddle Texts for the Week

Share
(highs and lows of the day)

Read
(a piece of scripture)

Talk
(about how the scripture interacts with your highs and lows)

Pray
(make sure to include your highs and lows)

Bless
(last thing you do tonight)

Sunday: Psalm 27:1
Monday: Isaiah 40:1-2
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:3-5
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:6-8
Thursday: Luke 1:34-35
Friday: Luke. 1:36-38
Saturday: Luke 3:1-2

Blessing: The God who was, the God who is and the God who will be, will be with you always, Be Not Afraid!

