

# ON EARTH

THE SERIES GUIDE FROM  
CROSSWALK CHURCH  
NOV 20 THRU TO THE NEW YEAR



Through the Christmas story, we will be focusing on the values of the kingdom of God and how those values are lived out 'on earth'.

# ON EARTH

5 Weeks

In this series, we will be talking about how the kingdom of God informs the way we live our lives and see the world. As we read through the story of the “Advent” or the “Coming Of God”, it is clear that a primary purpose of this gracious act is to give us a glimpse of heaven in order to be inspired to model heaven on earth. Through the Christmas story, we will be focusing on the values of the kingdom of God and how those values are lived out ‘on earth’. Through an honest reading of the unique characters of the Advent story, we hope that our community accepts the calling to align our lives with heaven.

This series guide is unique as it also has a weekly curriculum for the youth written by **Andy Palomares** and **Joshua Estrada**.

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# WEEK 1

## INTRODUCTION

The following is a guide to help facilitate discussion. Feel free to add or subtract or change questions to fit the conversation, and pray for the Spirit to lead in all things.

### OPEN

Think about your genealogy. How far back can you trace your family history? What characteristics of your family members do you exhibit in your life?

This picture of the Messiah's reign is both personal and social. What would it look like to live in a new society underneath this type of rule and reign? What changes would that make in your life? In society?

### HEAD

Read together the Scripture, Isaiah 11 and Matthew 1, and share anything that stands out to you or any questions/comments that immediately pop-up.

Isaiah 11 begins by mentioning "the stump of Jesse" or "David's family." What importance is there in mentioning this lineage?

What do we learn about the Messiah from verses 3-5? What attributes will he have due to the Spirit of God upon him?

A beautiful picture of peace is presented in this passage. Which image is the most comforting to you? Which is the most startling?

### HEART

Isaiah 11 gives a beautiful glimpse of the Messiah. What qualities, teachings, or stories of Jesus come to mind as you consider the attributes listed in verses 2-5? Which of these qualities/characteristics has made an impact in your life? How so?

### HANDS

Isaiah 11 is bursting with messianic hope and expectation. The text presents a picture of God's preferred future for humanity and shows that there is hope beyond the pain, destruction, and devastation. It shows that a day is coming when God will bring peace and restore all things. What can we do today to instruments of peace? How can we be representatives of The Kingdom on earth here and now?

### LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

"There is a coming king who is unlike any other king we have known. He will establish a kingdom that is unlike any other kingdom we have known: a kingdom of peace."

[illegible]

**INTRODUCTION**

In this series, we will be talking about how the kingdom of God informs the way we live our lives and see the world. As we read through the story of the “Advent” or the “Coming Of God”, it is clear that a primary purpose of this gracious act is to give us a glimpse of heaven in order to be inspired to model heaven on earth. Through the Christmas story, we will be focusing on the values of the kingdom of God and how those values are lived out ‘on earth’. Through an honest reading of the unique characters of the Advent story, we hope that our community accepts the calling to align our lives with heaven.

**CONNECT**

Have you ever been embarrassed by your family? Spend some time talking about an embarrassing story that occurred in your life. Today the story is funny, but how did your family’s history make you feel at the time?

Did you ever feel less cool because of your family?

What qualities, teachings, or stories of Jesus come to mind as you consider the attributes listed in verses 2-5? Which of these qualities/ characteristics has made an impact in your life? How so?

Read as a group Matthew 1:1-17 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.

**READ**

*Context:*

This is the genealogy of Jesus. This is his family’s history - all the good and all the bad are part of his story. Each name here represents a part of the history that Jesus later carried with him. When we think about Jesus we think about perfection - a person who is the purest symbol of love and the ultimate way of salvation. What we don’t often think about is the craziness of his family’s history. Here we see that Jesus’s lineage before him had a lot of crazy moments, moments where humans made mistakes and did not choose God’s way. Yet even in the mistakes, we see that God was still working. Even though humanity was flawed, God’s plan for salvation was still possible.

*Extra Questions to ask:*

Do any of the people in this portion of scripture have crazy stories? If so, which ones?

If you were one of these characters, and you knew that the messiah would one day come from your descendants, would you be afraid that you had messed that up?

If all the ancestors of Jesus couldn’t mess up God’s plan, what does this mean for God’s plan in our life?

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## **WEEK 2**



### OPEN

Can you remember a time in your life when you waited a long time for something? Maybe you stood in line for a movie, or a ride at an amusement park, or for a store to open, or maybe a gift that you wanted for some time but finally got? Share what the waiting was like, the anticipation, and then what it was like to finally receive?

### HEAD

Read as a group Isaiah 9: 1-7 and Luke 2: 25-35 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.

What do you think the “darkness” was that Israel walked in, and was the great light something present or to come? What was the light?

Of the list given of names for the son to be born in verse 6, what name means the most to you right now and why?

Based on verses 6-7, what kind of ruler and government do you think Israel expected?

According to Simeon, the kingdom of God was about salvation even for him that was dying, so it must have been more than just a worldly kingdom. Why do you think Simeon was so opened to the truth of what God’s kingdom and His Messiah really was?

In verse 32, Simeon understood something about God’s revelation and kingdom that many other Jews did not. Can you figure out what that was from this verse?

What did Simeon’s “warning” to Mary and Joseph in v. 35 mean about the kingdom of God? Would the road of the kingdom be easy?

### HEART

The kingdom of God was ushered here on earth as in heaven with the coming of Messiah Jesus. What do you think that means? What’s different about our lives since Jesus? What are the implications of living in the kingdom of God now, here on earth, as in heaven?

According to Simeon, the kingdom of God was for all, not just the Jews. How do you and I practice living with a bigger table so that all may come to know Jesus Christ as Lord?

How does one live differently in the kingdom of God vs the kingdom of this world? Should there be a noticeable difference and if so, in what ways?

If the kingdom of God is here and now, then we are not just escape artists trying to get out of this world, but we have work to do in this world so we get a taste on earth as it is in heaven. What is one thing you can begin practicing today that would allow you to be a kingdom agent here and now?

### HANDS

One quality in the kingdom of God is peace, as Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus even says, “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” What is one way you can help be a peace - maker, in your life this week, either at home or work?

**LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK**  
 “Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6: 9-10, NLT)

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**CONNECT**

Can you remember a time in your life when you waited a long time for something? Maybe you stood in line for a movie, or a ride at an amusement park, or for a store to open, or maybe a gift that you wanted for some time then finally got? Share what the waiting was like, the anticipation, and then what it was like to finally receive what you were waiting for?

**READ**

For hundreds of years, the Jews waited for the promised Messiah sent from God, all the while they lived under the oppression of some other power (Babylon, Medes and Persians, Rome, etc...). They prayed regularly for the Messiah to come, but as we learn in the story of Jesus, many of them missed it and did not think Jesus fulfilled that promise because He didn't overthrow their current oppressors. Nevertheless, for those that did know, great joy came over the fulfillment of God's promised delivery.

Read as a group Isaiah 9: 1-7 and Luke 2: 25-35 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.

What do you think the "darkness" was that Israel was walking in, and was the great light something present or something to come? What was the light?

Of the list given of names for the son to be born in verse 6, what name means the most to you right now and why?

Based on verses 6-7, what kind of ruler and government do you think Israel expected God to send?

Simeon was described as being righteous and devout, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. How do you think Simeon lived, what kinds of things did he do and how might he have treated others, that caused people to see him this way?

In verse 32, it says that God was now revealing Himself to the Gentiles. Gentiles were the "outsiders" from the Jewish perspective. Who do you think are some of the "outsiders" today that God desires His good news to be shared with?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt after hearing Simeon's words in verses 34-35?

**APPLY**

In light of Simeon's words in verses 34-35, do you think following Jesus is always easy, or can it be difficult? How do we survive the difficult times?

The kingdom of God was ushered here on earth as in heaven with the coming of Messiah Jesus. What do you think that means? What's different about our lives since Jesus?

How does one live differently in the kingdom of God vs the kingdom of this world? Should there be a noticeable difference, and if so, what should be different about how we live?

How do we learn more about what the kingdom of God is, what it looks like, and how we live into it? (one idea is to read the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7)

What is one thing you can begin practicing today that would allow you to be a kingdom agent here and now?

## THE WALK

One quality in the kingdom of God is peace, as Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus even says, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." What is one way you can help be a peace - maker, in your life this week, either at home or school?

## LIVING WORDS

“Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6: 9-10, NLT)

## WANT MORE?

## Video

The Messiah of Scripture  
<https://youtu.be/3dEh25pduQ8>

*Song*

All Hail King Jesus  
[https://youtu.be/Fdp\\_aRd8Nxo](https://youtu.be/Fdp_aRd8Nxo)

*Other*

In Luke 7:22, Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist to go back to him and report what they hear and see about what's happening now that Jesus is here. He says: Then he told John's disciples, "Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."

If you have time, have your group wrestle with what a world where Jesus is king looks like now and how we can live into that truth even now, on earth, as in heaven.

# WEEK 3

**OPEN**

Have you ever had to write a letter of recommendation for someone? What were you recommending them for and how did you introduce the person in your letter? Was it easy or hard?

**HEAD**

Read together the Scripture, Isaiah 42:1-9, and share anything that stands out to you or any questions/comments that immediately pop up.

In a sense, Isaiah 42:1-4 is one of God's introductions, or recommendations, to the Messiah. What characteristics about the coming Savior are emphasized?

Is there anything missing in this passage that humans might want from a Savior?

In Isaiah 42:5-9, the perspective of the passage shifts to what God will do with the Chosen Servant. Historically, the nation of Israel understood this passage to be about what God would do through them. Do you believe a single nation could accomplish the work in these verses?

"Justice" is emphasized multiple times in this passage. According to Isaiah, who is desiring the justice work of the Messiah? Who will benefit?

**HEART**

What mental associations, beliefs, or emotions do you have about "God's justice"? Are they positive or negative?

What elements of the work of God in Isaiah 42:1-9 do you think are included in our co-mission with God?

How has Crosswalk Church informed or empowered your participation in justice work?

**HANDS**

What does the life of someone who knows that God's justice will come to this earth look like?

Take an inventory of your time and resources. Are there ways in which you could devote more of your time and resources to the "justice" part of our co-mission with God?

**LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK**

"God, the LORD, created the heavens and stretched them out. He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath to everyone, life to everyone who walks the earth."  
(Isaiah 42:5a)

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**INTRODUCTION**

We've been reflecting on what it means for Jesus to be here on earth – and being part of the human story. Then, we talked about what it means for the Kingdom to be here. You can almost look at this as 3 acts in a play. In act one Jesus comes to earth. In act two Jesus brings his Kingdom. But in act 3, it is about people responding to the Kingdom of Jesus, and the reading we have from Isaiah paints a picture of how the Church will respond too. Before our reading – Let's connect!

**CONNECT**

Share a time one of your friends went viral on tik tok. Share with each other a time you wanted to do something good for someone but you didn't actually do it. What kept you from doing good? It's okay if you didn't. Share a time you did do something good for someone and you couldn't believe you were actually going through with it!

**READ***Section 1*

Read as a group ISAIAH 42. 1-5 –and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.

Here are some extra thoughts on this reading. “Look” in verse one can be seen as a call to focus. God is speaking to all people saying. Listen to the following words.

“My Servant” in the same verse can be understood as a direct reference to Jesus, He is in fact in service to God. Let's make a distinction though, Jesus is not a slave to God, rather he refers to himself as a Son in service. And it is in this understanding of his own identity that Jesus pledges to serve humanity and release them from different forms of “slavery” and oppression.

“He will not crush the weakest reed” in verse 3 is that God does not end violence with more violence.

*Section 2*

Read as a group ISAIAH 42. 6-9 –and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.

“you will be a light to guide the nations” in verse 6 is the ideal response Jesus is looking for from us. That we would see ourselves as a light that teaches people how to see life for what it can truly be.

In both of these readings we are reminded that throughout the legacy of humanity there have always been people who are oppressed and need to be released. In Isaiah's time It was the people of Israel who were in captivity even up to the time where Jesus came to be with them in the New testament. Let's remember that even in our timeline today, we're still affected by human trafficking, genocide, racism, & sexism.

**APPLY**

If light is knowledge and an understanding of who we truly are because of Jesus – we can learn to have a good understanding of what it means to be stuck in darkness.



What would you say makes your friends feel anxiety or fear? What makes you and your friends lose courage?

How can Jesus empower you to gain confidence in Him? How can Jesus and your community help you overcome your fears?

How can you be light to your friends and to each other?

In the passages of scripture another form of darkness is oppression – try to think of your circle of friends, is there someone who needs help but feels like they can't share their struggle?

How can you amplify the voices of your friends who feel like they are not seen or heard?

### **THE WALK**

How can this youth group be a local expression of the Kingdom Jesus is talking about?

Where can we stand up for each other more?

Are there any habits or ways of thinking we should focus on more in this next season together?

Let's talk about how to be a youth group for all.

### **LIVING WORDS**

JOHN 17:18 Just as you sent me into the world,  
I am sending them into the world.

Jesus speaking today. "Father, just as you sent me to be light to all, I am sending "THE WALK YOUTH" to be light to those in their world.

THIS IS POWERFUL FRIENDS! JESUS  
HAS SO MUCH LOVE FOR YOU

AND BELIEVES THAT YOU ARE SUCH A  
GOOD LIGHT

YOU ARE THE PERSON JESUS WANTS  
OTHERS TO MEET

HERE ON EARTH!

### **WANT MORE?**

*Video*

How to make your friends a grilled cheese  
in 5 mins with Gordon Ramsay  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=8E4cQHejFqo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8E4cQHejFqo)

Share Your Fave TikTok Top Comments!

*Other*

Plan a grilled cheese party with your friends  
- veggy options welcome ;)

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# WEEK 4

### OPEN

Do you know what your name means, and if so, is there any significance as to why your parents gave you that name?

### HEAD

Read as a group Isaiah 7: 14 and Luke 1: 26-56 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.

Why do you think the sign from God was a virgin having a child?

Why do you think Mary was troubled at the compliment from the angel? (see verse 28-29)

What was Mary's first response to becoming pregnant from God? (see verse 34)

Mary seems quick to go from fear to acceptance of the call. How do you think she was able to make that turn so quickly?

Because of whom, in Mary's song, will the humble servant be called blessed for generations? (see verse 49)

### HEART

Mary literally had the kingdom of God within her in the form of Jesus. But what about us today? Is the kingdom of God in us? If so, how?

Elizabeth was said to be full of the Spirit, and was aware for the reason her baby leapt for joy in her womb. In light of this, what can we learn about what it may feel like to be in-step

and full of the Spirit of God living in us?

Has there ever been something in your life that you thought was impossible that God helped bring it to pass?

Some look back on these stories of how God acted in the past and wonder why He seems so silent today. What do you think? Is He silent today or is He still at work? Do miracles happen? Does He still live in us and work through us?

### HANDS

In what ways can you this week seek to develop a humble spirit like Mary to trust and obey God's voice, and to live in-step with the Spirit like Elizabeth?

### LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

"He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."

John 14: 17, NLT

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### CONNECT

Do you know what your name means, and if so, is there any significance as to why your parents gave you that name?

### READ

Read as a group Isaiah 7: 14 and Luke 1: 26-56 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.

Why do you think the sign from God was a virgin having a child? Couldn't have Jesus just come as a full grown person?

Why do you think Mary was troubled to hear the angel say she was highly favored? (see verse 28-29)

What was Mary's first response to becoming pregnant from God? (see verse 34)

Mary seems quick to go from fear to acceptance of the call. How do you think she was able to make that turn so quickly?

Because of whom, in Mary's song, will the humble servant be called blessed for generations? (see verse 49)

### APPLY

Do you think that like Mary, we are quick to look at all the reasons we can't do what God asks us to do instead of trusting that God is making a good choice? How can we learn to trust God more?

Mary literally had the kingdom of God within her in the form of Jesus.

But what about us today? Is the kingdom of God in us? If so, how?

Elizabeth was said to be full of the Spirit, and was aware for the reason her baby leapt for joy in her womb. In light of this, what can we learn about what it may feel like to be in-step and full of the Spirit of God living in us?

Has there ever been something in your life that you thought was impossible that God helped bring it to pass? What was it and how did it make you feel?

Some look back on these stories of how God acted in the past and wonder why He seems so silent today. What do you think? Is He silent today or is He still at work? Do miracles happen? Does He still live in us and work through us?

### THE WALK

What in your life seems impossible right now? Spend this next week praying about that thing and trying to surrender it over to God, trusting Him to do what is best in your life.

### LIVING WORDS

"He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you." J  
ohn 14: 17, NLT

## WANT MORE?

## Video

## Luke 1-2

[https://youtu.be/\\_OLezoUvOEQ](https://youtu.be/_OLezoUvOEQ)

*Song*

## On Earth as in Heaven

<https://youtu.be/2qKRjo4lLvc>

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# WEEK 5

### OPEN

When you think about eternity, what thoughts come to mind? What is most exciting to you? What questions or wonders do you have?

### HEAD

Read together the Scriptures, Isaiah 65:17-25 and Revelation 21:1-7, and share anything that stands out to you or any questions/comments that immediately pop-up.

What do we learn from these passages about the plans and purposes of God?

As you read the passage in Isaiah, specifically verses 17-19, what key characteristics of this new creation do you see? \*Hint--count how many times you read the words "glad, joy, delight, rejoice, etc.

As we think about the beauty of eternity and the end of our time here on earth, it may be helpful to think about how it all started. Reflect on the story of creation in Genesis. What similarities do you notice? What differences do you see, if any? What blessings and what kind of fellowship are Isaiah and John the Revelator describing?

### HEART

These passages are full of hope and expectation, they give us glimpses of the glory of God and His great plans for our future. As you think about these things, imagine your life without any of the causes or results of grief, pain, or sorrow. What would life look/feel like? What would that free you up to do?

How does this eternal perspective of God's plans and purposes impact or affect the way you engage with the struggles and difficulties of life on earth? If there was one invitation in these texts from God to you, an invitation to live differently, what would that be?

### HANDS

As you close out the year and end the chapter of "2021" reflect on what God has done for you this year. How have you changed? How has your thinking changed? Have you grown in the grace and love of God? Has that grace and love overflowed into the lives of others? Have you carried the hope of eternity in your heart through each and every challenge and difficulty? Have forgiveness and mercy been key characteristics of your daily rhythms?

As you begin a new year and have a fresh start; what is God calling you to? What invitations are before you? What is God inviting you to step into? How can we, brothers and sisters in Christ, help and encourage you on this journey?

### LIVING WORDS FOR YOUR WEEK

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21: 3-5



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## THE WALK

Are there ways you've been using your freedom to actually put you back in chains? How can you choose to live in the freedom and love that God has called you to live in?

## LIVING WORDS

“For you have been called to live in freedom,  
my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your  
freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead,  
use your freedom to serve on another in love.”

## Galatians 5: 13

## WANT MORE?

*Song*

New Heart by Mosaic MSC

As a citizen of heaven we must choose to live in freedom and love. Yet the freedom we learn about in this portion of scripture isn't the freedom to do anything but rather the freedom to love the way Jesus loved.

The way that the world chooses to express freedom doesn't mean that is the way that we should express freedom. Paul says to watch out for false gospels. We must make sure that the freedom and love that we hold on to is the freedom and love that Jesus presented to us.

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**CROSSWALK**