

advent discussion questions

1. Advent is about anticipation and longing, yet we live in an impatient world that seeks to avoid delays. Why, and in what ways, do New Yorkers seek to avoid waiting?
2. What do the rhythms of your life and the wishes of your heart reveal about what you most look forward to right now?
3. Think back on the arrival of an important person or event in your life and how you prepared for their coming. What are some concrete ways you could better prepare and build a longing for Christmas and for Jesus' final coming?
4. When Jesus finally arrived, Simeon "took him in his arms" (Luke 2:28). God sent his Son, vulnerable and approachable as a baby, so that you could be embraced in his love. How would your life and relationships be different if you lived in light of this love?
5. For many in New York, Christmas can be a lonely time. How can Jesus' coming into the world bring comfort to the lonely and give us courage and compassion to reach out to others in practical ways?
6. Every holiday is marked by beloved traditions. What do you think our wish for traditions says about us?
7. In his book *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*, Tim Keller says modern Christmas traditions may be good and reflect Christian origins, but are becoming more detached from their roots over time. Are there ways you can anticipate and celebrate Christmas this year with more intentionality?
8. Commenting on the census in Luke 2, Matthew Henry writes, "All the world shall be at the trouble of being enrolled, only that Joseph and Mary may." What can seem like a major inconvenience for many leads to the birth of Jesus in the appointed city of Bethlehem. What are some ways we might need to inconvenience ourselves so that others can flourish this season?
9. Tim Keller points out that in society broadly, Christian beliefs can rise to the surface at Christmas. Are there aspects of the first Christmas or Advent traditions you'd like to learn more about? For the Christians in the group, are there ways you can use the Christmas season to share your faith with others?