

Advent 1A – November 27, 2022

Isaiah 2:1-5

Think...

The most famous line from the hit TV show “Friday Night Lights” is appropriate this week: “clear eyes, full hearts, can’t lose.” Spoken to a high school football team, they impute an attitude of success which comes true.

Isaiah does the same. After tearing into his listeners in chapter one, God through Isaiah offers them a vision (clear eyes) of what life in the Kingdom will be like. God’s house will become the highest point on earth; people from around the world will pour into it; God will instill in them in the true way to live (full hearts); God will put an end to senseless violence and needless wars leading to the people laying down their arms, turning them into farm tools (can’t lose).

He then invites those listening, those who have heard, to “walk in the light of the Lord.” It is an invitation to live as if this vision were true today, to live with clear eyes and full hearts, knowing our God will not lose in making it so.

We read this on the first Sunday of Advent as a way to remind ourselves about Jesus. As he says in John, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:12b). Following the light of the world means trusting in the promise of Jesus’ return to fulfill this vision where every knee will bow and every tongue confess. Or as the spiritual says, “gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside, study war no more.”

Read

Read Isaiah 2:1-5 in an appropriate Bible or translation for your group. We suggest the Common English Bible (CEB.)

Talk...

Simple Questions

1. What makes it so hard to wait for things we really want or want to happen?
2. Where is the highest place you’ve ever been to? What did it look like?

Intermediate Questions

1. How has Jesus been a light in your life?
2. What do you think gets in the way of peace?

Tough Questions

1. If the nations won’t learn war anymore in the Kingdom, how are we taught war now?
2. What’s a modern take on swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks?

Do...

Following the Light of the Lord is what Advent is all about - keeping awake and vigilant. Here are some ideas for following Jesus this week—pray for the war in Ukraine to end, financially support aid organizations like Week of Compassion, sit with people in the nursing home who doesn’t have anyone else, or bake cookies for retail workers thanking them for their work.

Pray...

Oh Lord, we wait for you, for we know your Day is always near. We know we have become lazy, so we ask you to help us to keep watch, take heart, and actively wait. AMEN.