



Ministry of Biblical Studies

DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

December 18th @ 11am | Advent: The Gift of Love

ADVENT

A SEASON OF EXPECTATION



Metropolitan Community Church
4610 S Prairie Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653



Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church Ministry of Biblical Study Classes

December 18, 2024

"Advent: The Gift of Love"

11:00am – 11:45am

Introduction:

In this class, we will deepen our understanding of the Advent theme of love, emphasizing God's love revealed in Jesus Christ and how we are called to reflect that love to others during this season and beyond.

Key Scripture Passages:

1. John 3:16-17 – God's ultimate act of love through Jesus.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

2. 1 John 4:9-11 – Love as the essence of God and our response to it.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

The Gift of Love in Advent:

- Advent as a celebration of God's love taking human form in Jesus.
- Love as the foundation of all other Advent themes (hope, peace, joy).

God's Unconditional Love:

- The nature of agape love—selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional.
- How Christ's birth, life, and sacrifice demonstrate God's love for humanity.

Key Scripture:

- Romans 5:8 – “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Our Response to God’s Love:

- Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37).
- Loving our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).
- Sharing God’s love through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion.

Reflection Questions:

- What does God’s love mean to you personally?
- How can we embody and share the gift of love during Advent?
- In what ways have you experienced or witnessed love as transformative?

Application - Living Out the Gift of Love:

- Spend intentional time in prayer, reflecting on God’s love for you.
- Identify one person to whom you can show an act of love this week (e.g., forgiveness, encouragement, or service).
- Practice seeing others as God sees them—with compassion and grace.

Challenge for the Week:

- Write a letter or note expressing God’s love to someone in need of encouragement.
- Meditate on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, focusing on how you can align your actions with love.

Closing Reflection:

- “Advent reminds us that God’s love is not just something to receive but also something to give. Let us live as vessels of His love this season.”

Closing Prayer

Key Scriptures:

- **John 3:16-17** – God's gift of love through His Son.
- **1 John 4:9-11** – God's love revealed and our call to love.
- **Romans 5:8** – God's love demonstrated while we were still sinners.
- **Matthew 22:37-39** – The greatest commandment: love God and others.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** – The characteristics of love.

Main Points to Emphasize:

1. **Love is the foundation of the Advent message:** God's love initiated the plan of salvation.
2. **Love is active:** It is not just a feeling but an action that reflects God's character.
3. **We are called to love as Christ loves us:** Extending grace, forgiveness, and compassion to all.

