

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Date: December 1, 2019**  
**Advent Week 1**  
**Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44**  
**Theme: Watch**

The series begins where Advent begins:  
The call of Jesus to his disciples to stay on watch for the fulfillment of all things.

**Introduction to Advent:**

“The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas."

Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day....”

Adapted from "What is Advent?" and "Understanding Advent" by **Dean McIntyre**, retired director of music resources, Discipleship Ministries, UMC. Originally published in *Interpreter Magazine*, November–December, 2017.

Read Isaiah 2:1-5:

1. According to Isaiah 2:2, what is this passage (and all of these passages) referring to? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this verse truly talking about mountains and hills? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Read Psalm 122:

2. Find the following themes about the last days in Isaiah 2:1-5 and Psalm 122:

- a. Worship. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Judgment. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Peace. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Blessing/Prosperity. \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Romans 13:11-14:

3. What hour has already come, according to Romans 13:11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is “nearly over,” according to Romans 13:12? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How, according to Romans 13:12-13, should the people of God behave?
  - a. Put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
  - b. Decently, as in the daytime.
  - c. In carousing and drunkenness.
  - d. In sexual immorality and debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures).
  - e. In dissension and jealousy.
6. What should we do instead, according to Romans 13:14? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Explain the significance of light and darkness, according to this passage. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 24:36-44:

8. Who, according to Matt 24:36, knows the “day or hour”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What was it like in the days of Noah/the flood, according to Matt 24:37-39?
  - a. People were eating and drinking
  - b. People were marrying and giving in marriage.
  - c. People knew nothing about what would happen...
  - d. There was no warning!
10. How will it be, when the Son returns, according to Matt 24:37-41? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the significance of the illustration about the thief?
  - a. Thieves, by definition, come when you least expect them.
  - b. Like a robbery, you would be ready if you knew Christ was coming.
  - c. Be ready...ALL THE TIME...IT COULD BE ANY TIME!
12. Are you ready? \_\_\_\_\_