



## OVERVIEW

Advent means 'arrival' and it is a time where we reflect on those (in the Bible) who waited for the arrival of the incarnate infant Jesus, while we (today) wait for the arrival of the enthroned King Jesus.

This season is marked by the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus established His Kingdom bringing us hope, peace, joy and love now – yet we also wait for the day when these will be perfected in the renewal of all things...

So how do we live now?

We are healed and transformed as the Holy Spirit fills us with hope, peace, love and joy. We are signposts and foretastes of the Kingdom as we help those around us to experience hope, peace, joy, and love. We are worshippers who always celebrate what Jesus has achieved, yet we realistically acknowledge the brokenness of this age and desperately await Jesus' second arrival.

We will follow Isaiah as we journey through Advent, exploring how his words comforted the exiled Israelites as he spoke of the hope, peace, joy and love to be brought when God Himself was going to come. We will reflect on the ways in which the prophet's words still speak to us today as we await the fullness of hope, peace, joy and love to come.

## GOAL

This sermon series will invite us to *celebrate* what Jesus has done, *anticipate* what he will do and *experience* and *share with others* (reveal) the hope, peace, joy and love found in Him!

Celebrate

# CHRISTMAS

at Georges River Life Church

## PRACTICAL INITIATIVES & SMALL GROUPS

The Advent series runs alongside the Life Care Christmas Appeal and the holiday of Christmas! Individually and as a church family, we want to *reveal Jesus* this Christmas by:

- **Giving** to the Life Care Christmas Appeal
- **Building** a backpack or helping in the backpack initiative
- **Sharing** with others – maybe a meal, some time, your/their story, your hope, a gift...
- **Praying** for those you are connecting with personally, and those we are connecting with as a church through backpack initiative and Life Care Christmas Appeal

We understand that each of our Small Groups may look different for the rest of the year (and even into next year) in the way that they're connecting and meeting – but no matter what, our heart is that every group finishes well with a sense of connection and celebration.

We encourage groups to engage with our Advent sermon series this term (either in person or online) and through the Small Group Discussion Guides that come out each fortnight which will be linked to the Advent series.

We also encourage Small Groups to create a space to ask each other how we can all be intentional this Christmas, to share and be on mission – whether that's together as a group, individually, as family units, engaging with Life Care, or thinking of your own way to give, build, share and pray through this Advent season.

If you or your Small Group would like to get involved with the Life Care Christmas Appeal or backpack initiative, you can find more information on the website:

<https://grlc.org.au/lifecare-appeal/>