

**Advent (1 of 4)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, November 27, 2022**



**Sermon Series:** The Anticipated Christ

**Sermon Title:** The Proto Gospel

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 12:9-12

**Sermon Focus:** The world is not as it should be. We are not as we should be. Why is that? The Bible says that the “fall” of humanity came soon after God created us. And it began with a serpent waging war against God’s good creation, his divine will, and the creatures that he loves. But it was there in the garden—at the scene of the crime—that God said he would crush the enemy and send us a savior. In the first message of our Advent series, Pastor David invites us to hear the good news according to Genesis.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Genesis 3:1-24 together. Pastor David pointed out that the serpent in the original context was a “chaos creature” that embodied temptation. The early church looked back on this story and believed it was Satan at work (Rev. 12:9). As you reflect on this story, how do you see the enemy still using the same tactics today? How do this story represent the ongoing human experience?
2. According to Genesis 3, the struggle between good and evil is a cosmic battle and requires divine intervention. Only God can deliver us from “the fall” of humanity and creation. We have a spiritual enemy that must be crushed. Jesus secured the victory in his death and resurrection and will finally rid the world of sin and death in his return. How might this truth change the way we see our calling to love God and neighbor? Why do anything if only Jesus can fix things?
3. Pastor David showed a series of pictures while describing some of the signs of the fall and the work of Satan in our world. He said he wanted to highlight the need we have for a Savior, because we can’t save ourselves. As Christians, our faith requires us to be honest about what is broken so we can see that our only hope is for Christ to deliver us. How can we face the dark realities of our fallen world and at the same time know God’s peace, joy, love, and hope as we wait?
4. Read Romans 8:18-29 together. If you’re familiar with this passage, read it in a contemporary translation like the VOICE or NLT, or maybe the Message.

Notice how the Apostle Paul addressed the dark realities and impending doom of his own world and time—2,000 years ago! Paul is trying to help his audience make sense of what they are seeing and experiencing and offering them words of hope. How are his words to the church in Rome applicable to us in America? How are his words both challenging and comforting for us today?

5. As we enter the season of Advent—a time of waiting and anticipating the coming of Christ—how do you need the Lord to show up in your life? What wisdom, comfort, direction, or deliverance to you need in your own situation? After sharing with the group, spend some time praying for each other.