

**Close to Home (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 28th 2021**



**Sermon Series Focus:** When something hits *close to home* it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through Scriptures and traditions that are tender, heavy with emotion, and make us more vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Join us this Advent season as we look at the Christmas story and acknowledge the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: God is already with us and heaven is coming to earth, and yet, God’s promised day—our eternal home—is not fully realized. So, how then shall we live?

**Sermon Title:** Homesick (Hope)

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 21:25-36; Romans 8:18-25; Hebrews 11:13-16

**Sermon Focus:** As we begin our Advent series, we remember how we are far from home. The world is not as it should be. Many have lost their physical homes, many feel alone, and many are isolated. Many of us feel as if we are wandering with no clear way forward. In this first message, Pastor David shares how the coming of Jesus speaks to our deep longing—for our home to be made whole, made right, and made well. With deep longing, we watch for God. Thankfully, God enters a *homesick* world.

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

1. Pastor David began by recalling times in his life where he has experienced being “homesick” (e.g., childhood, college, ministry, etc.). Can you recall various times that you have experienced the pain of being far from home? Share a time or two that you remember feeling this way and how you processed it.
2. Jesus predicted some hard times in Luke 21:25-36, cautioning folks to beware of things like loose living, drunkenness, and anxiety—all ways of coping with loss. Read Jesus’ words and apply them to where we are today. What might the Spirit be saying to us during an ongoing pandemic? How can we hold on to hope?
3. A life of faith necessitates the embrace of living with longing. Read about the faith of folks in the Old Testament in Hebrews 11:13-16. What longings are you living with today? Be specific as you share your longings and desires with others.
4. C.S. Lewis wrote: “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” Have you ever considered that your longings are not a weakness, or evidence that the universe is a fraud, but that they are signposts to God’s good future? How might this understanding change what you are experiencing now?
5. In Advent we often remember two comings of Christ: his birth and his second coming in glory. But what about his coming to us now (John 14:18,23)? What needs are you living with and how might God want to come to you this Advent? As we sing “O Come, O Come, Immanuel” ... how do you need him to come?