

THE LIFE CHALLENGE

CONNECT

Share about a meaningful Christmas tradition in your family.
What has been your experience or understanding of advent?



IDENTITY

Jesus warns His followers about suffering and persecution. The Early Church experiences all this and more. How do you think they were able to endure through such hardship?

Some people love end times discussions and others hate them. If you were on a scale of 1-10 where would you put yourself?

I hate all this stuff 1 ----- 5 ----- 10 I am enraptured

THE EXAMEN

Jesus says His return will be like spring coming. If you were to honestly assess your feelings about all this, do you feel longing (like for spring) or something else? Why?

Pastor Jon highlighted three warning areas for us (from Jesus). Which of these do you currently find the most enticing? **Entertainment, alcohol, or anxiety.**



Luke 21:34

Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life

PRACTICE

Read the parable of the lamps in Matthew 25:1-13.

More than anything, we want to be like the virgins who remain intentional and vigilant about the oil and the flame. We want to be anticipating the coming of the Beloved Groom and our King.

Take a moment to wait on Jesus. What practice might He be inviting you into this week to fan the flame of love, and to maintain the oil of hope? If you're willing, share with the group the invitation of Jesus to you.

PRAY TOGETHER

If you are willing share needs (or even struggles) with one another. Then pray together.