

AstepFURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.

From the Sermon on 11/30/25 "Jonah 2: Living in Advent"

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Opening Prayer: "Gracious God, as we gather to study your Word, open our hearts and minds to understand the depth of your love and the hope we have in Christ. Guide us to live in anticipation of His return and help us to be lights in this world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Understanding the Context: (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. What is the significance of Jesus speaking about the unknown day and hour of His return?
2. How does the reference to the days of Noah help us understand the urgency of Jesus' message?

Key Themes: (Living in Advent)

3. What does it mean to live in the "space in between" Christ's first coming and His return?
4. How does the concept of Advent challenge our cultural understanding of the Christmas season?

Application and Action:

5. In what ways can we "stay awake" and be prepared for Christ's return in our daily lives?
6. How can we balance the cultural celebrations of Christmas with the spiritual preparation of Advent?
7. How can you show hospitality and care for those entrusted to you this Advent season?
8. What specific actions can you take to be a light of hope in your community?

Group Discussion:

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Share a time when you felt the tension of waiting for something significant. How does this relate to the Advent season?
2. Discuss practical ways your group can support each other in being ready for Christ's return.

Closing Prayer:

“Gracious God, thank you for the promise of Christ's return and the hope it brings. As we leave this study, empower us to live faithfully, to care for those around us, and to be a light in the darkness. May our actions reflect your love and draw others to you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.”

Journal Prompt: Reflect on how you can be a mediator of Christ's presence to others this Advent season. Write about one person or group you feel called to serve and how you plan to do so.

