

honest advent group questions

Greetings!

Thanks for using Honest Advent as part of your seasonal meditation this year. I hope it awakens the Advent wonder that you have been longing for.

The book is focused on the question of “is Christ’s incarnation still happening in our midst?” Is Christmas a memorial service or a birthday party? And if it is a birthday party, where is Jesus now? My meditations through words and images is that we experience Jesus in our midst now through the vulnerability of incarnation. The Word of God was incarnated through human vulnerability, and we can connect with Jesus through that same human vulnerability.

Below I will list questions for each chapter that you can use for yourself or in a group setting for further discussion and meditation.

ANNUNCIATION

Have you ever had any kind of mystical experiences?
What happened? And what transformed about you?

What kind of transformation are you longing for presently?

LIGHT

Where have you seen God revealed in this physical world?
What happened? How did you know?

When do you feel like you connect with your soul the most?

MOTHERHOOD

What resonates with you the most about this image?

In your opinion, what’s the hardest part of motherhood?

VULNERABILITY

Have you ever thought of the Almighty God as vulnerable?
In what ways have you? In what ways have you not?

How have you experienced the Divine in human vulnerability?

GIVEN

When was a time in your life that you received something that you didn't feel like you deserved?

How did that make you feel?

How does Jesus' genealogy reflect your own?
Do you find this freeing or frightening?

UNEASE

What is the conversation you can have only by being in this situation?

What parts of your life have you been able to uncover only by finding yourself here?

What unexpected place might God want to meet you in during this uneasy time you're experiencing?

ALPHA

In what ways have you witnessed God's detailed intention in your life?
Have you ever been surprised by it?

What places do you struggle in seeing God's involvement in the world? Your life?

Where are you hoping to find the God "Who Was" the most in your world now?

BREATH

Have you ever done any kind of meditative breath work?
What was your experience of this?

Find your heart beat.

What comes to mind knowing that you are not in charge of your heart beating?

OMEGA

Have you ever thought of the Jesus “who is to come”?
What comes to mind when you think about that Jesus?

In what ways have you brushed close to death?

What are your thoughts on your mortality and your eventual death?
How do you talk about it with God and others?

VIRGIN

In what ways have you experience a transformation that wasn't up to you?

What paradoxes have you come across in life? How have you navigated those?

What impossibilities are you wanting the Divine to turn into possibilities?

ASSUMPTIONS

What stood out to you the most in this chapter?

What assumptions about faith, God, life have you thankfully found as untrue?

SEEN

How have you experienced the risk of being seen?
Is there a moment that you can tell us about?

How have you come to know the never ending well spring inside of you?
What is it like? How have you tapped into it?

SACRED

Have you ever been moved by “sacred” art?
What was it? What happened? Tell us the story.

What makes something sacred?

Have you ever had a sacred experience?

COUNSELOR

What stood out to you in this chapter?

Have you ever felt a sense of “prizing” in your spiritual life?

How have you experienced Jesus as a sympathizing high priest?

MIGHTY

What are the particular vulnerabilities in the stage of life you are in?

Who do you regard as someone mighty that has gone thru hardship?

What is the hardest part of your life right now that you want to ignore but you know you must go through?

FATHER

What comes to mind when you hear the title “Everlasting Father?”
Is it comforting or triggering?

Are you an orphan to existence?
What ties you here? What feels disconnected?

PEACE

Do you think peace is possible?

How have you witnessed peacemakers in your life?
What were the qualities of those people that stood out to you?

WITH

What uncontrollable forces are affecting your life right now?
Are they destructive or flourishing?
How have you been navigating them?

Does God want to change you for the better or the worse?
How have you seen this?

ROOM

In what ways have you transformed that have made it hard for you to fit in where you came from?

What has been the most surprising about your evolving faith?

In what ways have you witnessed God alongside you and providing for you in your evolving faith?

GOOP

What stood out to you the most in this chapter?

What parts of the Christmas celebration have become flavorless to you?
What parts have still given life to you?

BREAKING

What was the last time you moved from ideology to incarnation?
Meaning when did you move from head to heart?
Or ideas to action?

Have you ever witnessed a birth?
What was that like?

UNEXPECTED

What unexpected ways have you connected with God?
Was there a certain experience that comes to mind? Explain.

Where do you find God now in areas you used to never see the Divine in?

ATTENTION

Have you ever had an experience where you felt the outside world was pointing to an inside calling?
What was that like? What happened because of it?

How do you pay attention for God's presence in your life?

NEED

Where have you experienced needed connection to other people?

What do others need from you?

Do you think that Jesus needs you?

How would you describe this differently?

FEAR

What fears are in your life currently?

In the list of limited conclusions, what stood out to you the most?

Why?

In the list of the proclamation of good news, what stood out to you the most?

Why?

My hope and prayer is that these questions with your friends or just yourself and God led you to a deeper understanding and vision of witnessing God-With-Us in our midst right now.

Grace and Peace

Scott