

Growth Group Questions
December 24, 2023
“The Gift of God Showing His Face”

Scripture:

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

²As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.
How then can we be saved?

⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

⁷No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to^[b] our sins.

⁸Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

John 12:20-26

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:32

³² And I, when I am lifted up^[a] from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

1 John 1:1-4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our^[a] joy complete.

Questions:

1. Isaiah 64:1-9 is a prayer to God to deliver His people and make His presence known. It is a prayer that includes remembrance, repentance, and trust. What do you think makes this prayer a good example of an Advent prayer for us today?
2. Pastor Paul told us that the Bible reminds us that God will show up. What Bible verse(s) assure you that God will always show up?
3. What does the Bible tell us about what happens when God shows up?
4. How does God make His presence known to you?
5. How do you think God wants us to react when He shows up in our lives?
6. Pastor Paul said that the cradle and the cross always inform each other. What does that mean to you?
7. In John 12:32, we read that Jesus says, “I will draw all people to myself.” What do you see as the significance of this statement?
8. In 1 John 1:4, John says, “We write this to make our joy complete.” What does it mean to you to have complete joy?