

# Advent Groups Quick Start Guide

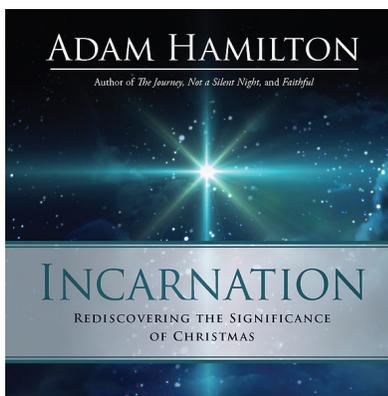


## What is an Advent group?

An Advent group is a small group that will meet during the four weeks of Advent to share with one another the joy of Advent and Christmas.

## Is there a companion book?

Our companion book will be *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton. Books are \$12 and can be purchased on your own or through the church. Reading the book is not required, but will be beneficial.



## What's a group host?

The host is the facilitator of the group, the one who initiates discussion, keeps the group on task, sends communication to the group, and watches over any needs.

## How will Advent groups meet?

Advent groups will meet remotely. The church can provide for you a monthly license for Zoom, or you can utilize another format to meet in complete safety.

## Why now?

Advent is an annual journey of anticipation and preparation. But here in 2020, after so many changes and challenges, building community is needed more than ever.

## How to get started:

- Choose your group format (Zoom, Google Meet, Facebook Messenger, etc).
- Determine target size of your group. We recommend groups under 15 people, give or take.
- Decide whether or not you will show the videos by Adam Hamilton during your time together.
- If starting a new group, reach out to those you wish to invite.
- To open your group to anyone in the church, we can list your group on our online sign-up form.
- We recommend using our church database system called "Realm" for your record keeping and emailing of your group.

## How to have a great group experience:

- The best time length for a session is 60-75 minutes.
- If utilizing an online program, we recommend designating someone else (not the host leader) to look after the technology, like controlling the mute button, letting people in, and troubleshooting any issues.
- One idea of the flow of your group might look like this:
  - 15 minutes--Check in with everyone, sharing how
  - 30 minutes--Discuss the weekly questions.
  - 15 minutes--wrapping up with prayer requests and prayer.
- Email or text your group at least once a week.

## Helpful contacts

- Irene Salz is our equipper and encourager, ready to answer questions and help your group succeed.  
i.salz@icloud.com
- Justin Snider can answer logistical questions about books and technology.  
jsnider@springfieldfirst.org
- Jenny Hutcherson can help you with Realm and online sign-ups.  
jhutcherson@springfieldfirst.org