

### I. Check-In

Check in. How was your Thanksgiving? Did you attend Large Group Gathering? How was it?

### II. Scriptures & Quotes

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.” -**Luke 21:25-36**

### Did You Know?

Liberation Theology is a movement within Christian theology that emphasizes God’s concern for the poor and oppressed and calls for active participation in bringing justice and liberation in the world. It views Jesus not only as a Savior but also as a liberator who stands with those who suffer. One significant figure in Liberation Theology is Óscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador. Romero became a vocal advocate for the poor and oppressed during El Salvador’s civil conflict in the 1970s and 1980s. He often said, “A church that does not unite itself to the poor... is not truly the church of Jesus Christ.” Romero’s courageous stance against political oppression and violence led to his assassination in 1980 while celebrating Mass. Today, he is remembered as a martyr and a saint who lived out the Advent hope for God’s kingdom of justice and peace.

### V. Prayers

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

### IV. Challenge

Reflect on the Oscar Romero quote below and make a plan to put this into practice during Advent.

### III. Discussion Questions

- Advent begins with a focus on Christ’s return and the fulfillment of God’s kingdom. How does this shape your understanding of the season? What does it mean to live with hope while waiting?
- Óscar Romero said, “A church that does not unite itself to the poor... is not truly the church of Jesus Christ.” How can you embody this call in your daily life during Advent?
- Jesus describes signs of distress and chaos but tells us to “stand up and raise your heads” because redemption is near. How can this perspective help you face challenges or brokenness in your own life?