

The Arrival: Love

Week 4

Discussion Guide



Icebreaker

What's one love story, fictional or real, that has stuck with you over the years?
Why do you think it resonated with you?

Discuss

We're drawn to love stories for a reason. They move us, make us hope, make us ache. But even the greatest stories our culture tells end in disappointment, distance, or heartbreak. There is a bigger story though. The story of God's love. This is the greatest love story because it didn't end in tragedy...it continues today and He invites us into it. The following verses remind us that Christmas began in the heart of a Father who sent His Son—not casually, but sacrificially.

Read: Isaiah 9:6, Galatians 4:4

- **What does it reveal about God's love that He was willing to send His Son into our broken world?**
- **What stands out to you about the idea of a God who initiates relationship with humanity?**
- **How does understanding the Father's love for the Son help you better grasp the weight and cost of Christmas?**

Mary's role shows us another dimension of love. This love is costly obedience, trust, and sacrifice. Her willingness to say yes came with fear, uncertainty, physical hardship, and social risk. Yet through her story, we see a God who draws near to ordinary, imperfect people.

Read Luke 1:28-33

- **What part of Mary's response to God's call stands out to you? Her courage, her trust, or her willingness to surrender? Why?**
- **Is there anything that makes you hesitate to believe that God really offers forgiveness and a new beginning?**
- **In what ways do you relate to the idea that responding to God's love sometimes requires courage, sacrifice, or a step into the unknown?**

Application

Every good love story invites a response. Christmas isn't just information—it's an invitation. God's love comes toward us, but it doesn't force itself. It calls us to receive it and then extend it outward.

Read John 3:16-17

- **What does it mean to you personally that Jesus came because you matter to Him?**
- **What is one way you want to respond to God's love this week—either by receiving it more deeply or sharing it more freely?**
- **Take one honest step toward exploring God's love—ask a question, read one of the passages again, pray a simple "If you're real, show me who You are," or talk to someone you trust.**
- **Choose one concrete action that reflects God's love toward a friend, coworker, neighbor, or family member. Make it specific: a conversation, forgiveness, generosity, encouragement, or presence.**

Prayer

Spend time in prayer inviting God to help you receive His love more fully and reflect it to the people around you this week.