

# Life Church Sermon Sheet:

Date: Sunday, December 16, 2018  
Rev. M. Dixon

Title: **An Advent Mindset is a Child-like Mindset.**

From Faith to Persevering Hope and true and natural love.



1. We are in Advent...This series is going to focus on Prayer.
  - a. **What Advent is (Last Week)**... and how it is a mindset for ALL prayer we do. Preparation for a celebration of FREEDOM and Identity in a spirit of Patience and a growth mindset. Matt 22 (God prepping a wedding party) and Matt 25- Wedding guest (10 Virgins) coming to a wedding) Being our examples, but understanding that even in mistakes we can grow from them.
  - b. **How an Advent Prayer mindset looks (This week)** Ps 37 being our Guide. Looking to cultivate Faithfulness in the little things like Daniel, but also having an intentional mindset of what we can envision like Nehemiah.
  - c. **How we can support each other in getting our lamps filled ( Next Week)** Tracking our growth in a world that is set against us. Becoming Prophets who support prophets like Simeon and Anna who waited with a plan.

2. Psalms 37: 3-5 What does it look like to wait like a child for Christmas?

- a. **Trust**-Begin with faith,
- b. **Dwell**-Pray for others, for the body to be restored... towards Jerusalem like Daniel, not towards idols or other security blankets we may have. Dwelling at home for the Holidays...
- c. **Cultivate faithfulness** (Preparation), going to bed, going to midnight mass, helping out with cooking- whatever it takes..
- d. **Delight**- Attitude. Seeing a kids open the packages is what God longs to see... The delight kids have when they get what they want is precious. God wants this for us as well, but he wants us to want things that give true joy, not just temporary joy.
- e. THEN He will give you the desires of your heart. The presents! THEN HE WILL GIVE YOU **WHAT TO DESIRE** not just **what you desire!** Advent is waiting expectantly for something God is promising you... Your Jesus, Vision, Goal etc. What is the next big thing God has for you? Seeing a loved one saved, impacting a child's life in a real way, etc.



**Commercial Break:** Make your bed...God's plan transforms us into true soldiers for His kingdom who are able to do extra ordinary things... It helps us fulfill our identity as His people from within, not from without- gifts. Sampson had the external gift, he had to

be transformed from within to be a soldier God could truly use. Make your Bed... Short version Being Faithful.

f. **Commit your way to the Lord and** trust He will do it... This is how we are to pray...Going all in with God's Kingdom like the green berets.... Daniel was a Green Beret for God as a prayer warrior, even being willing to go to a den for God. Don't forget that rule was only put in place because the other men knew Daniel prayed 3 times a day!

g. An Example of this is Nehemiah's Intentional Prayer...



3. You can share with the person in a small or even in the large group...

a. What are some character traits, or actions, etc. that children exhibit at Christmas time traditionally.

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b. Are they intentional about what they want? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. What would you do if a Child asks you what do you want me to have for Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_

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d. What 1 thing can you do to be more faithful in prayer? What does it mean to make your bed in prayer? Again we are thinking in terms of a growth mindset ( Growth is good but push yourself... and don't ring the bell. Don't forget Jesus did lose some patience when his disciples could not pray when he needed them) , not a legalistic list to build guilt around but excitement like a child expectantly desiring kingdom things- Like the salvation of a loved one, the healing of someone suffering, like overcoming pride or challenges you may face or wisdom to express love more deeply? \_\_\_\_

**MY One**

**thing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MY Plan to that 4+ times a week!**

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# Advent

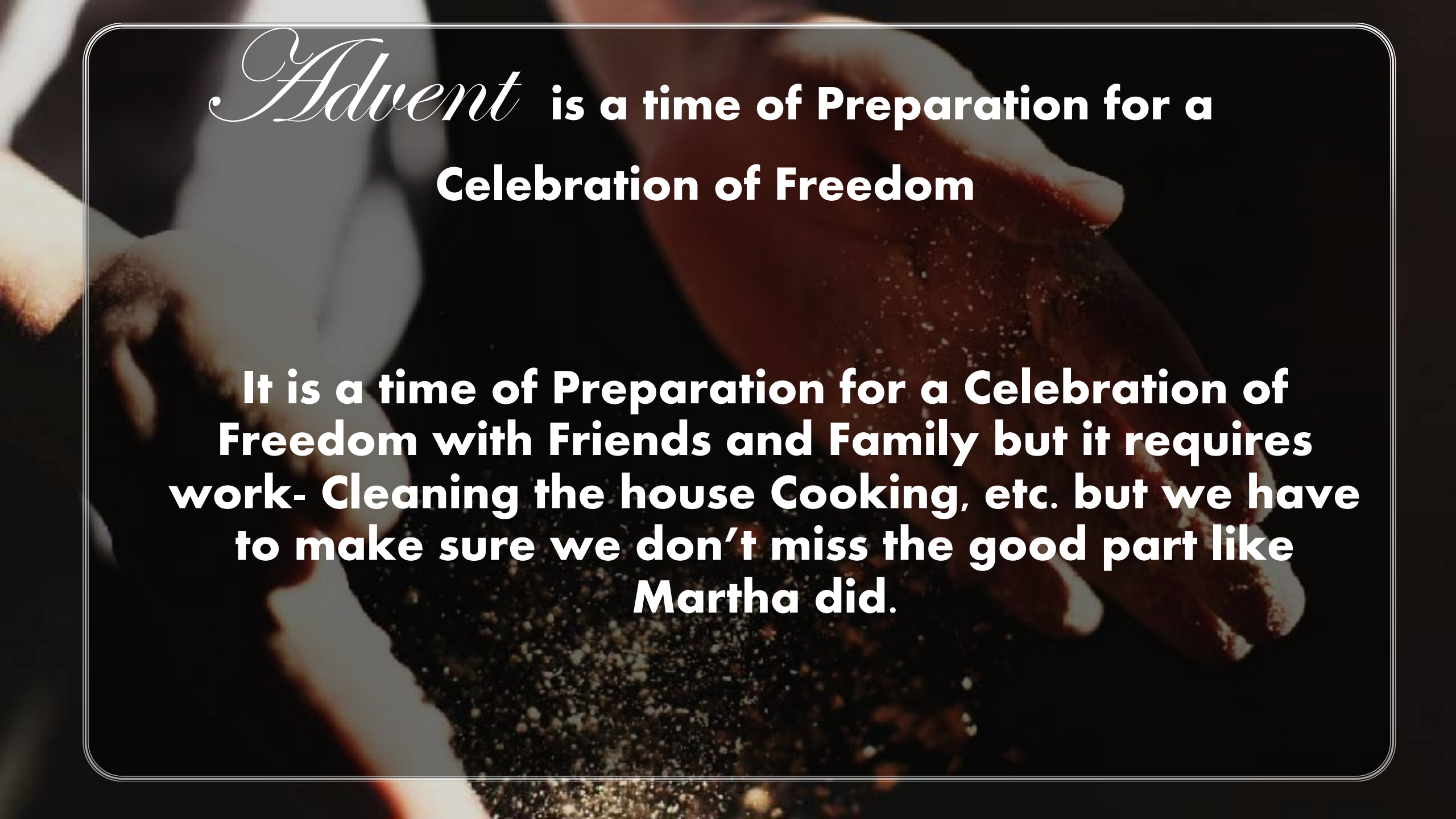
*Hope · Love · Joy · Peace*



*Advent*  
*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*

Thanks to Family we can be real with each other  
as we wait, even when we have a

**Flat Tire**



*Advent* is a time of Preparation for a  
**Celebration of Freedom**

**It is a time of Preparation for a Celebration of Freedom with Friends and Family but it requires work- Cleaning the house Cooking, etc. but we have to make sure we don't miss the good part like Martha did.**

# **When God prepares a party it comes out Good!**

- 1. Even when he helps out he makes the host look bad (Wedding at Cana)**
- 2. God Does Invite Guests (Save the date) and follows up with the invite. When folks CHOOSE not to come, He doesn't take that too well. They get un-invited. And if they hurt his messengers- worse.**
- 3. God then invites others but expects them to come prepared as well Ugly sweaters and all.**

*Matthew 22:1-14*



# *Remember*

what is really important- the  
fellowship not the preparation...  
though the preparation shows our  
value for the Fellowship.

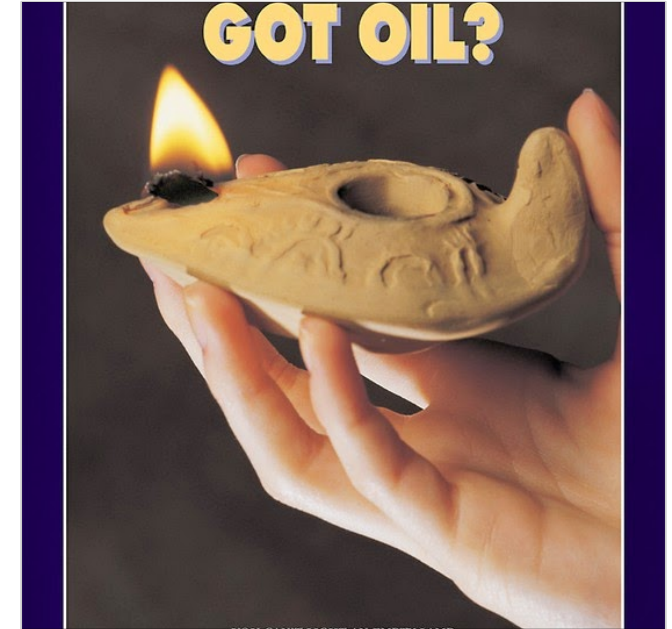


**“Let the little children come to me,  
and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”**  
Mark 10:14

**“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power  
of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children  
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to  
make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”** Luke 1:17

## Be Prepared

We often want the benefits of the party but don't show up on time



- **Matt 25: 1-13 The 10 Virgins is a tough story but it is also part of the learning process. We often look down on the 5 virgins who missed out. We don't know what happened to the other 5 virgins to make them wise. They may have been left out before and said not this time. Let's not lament over failures but learn from them!**

If you can't fly, then **RUN**.  
If you can't run, then **WALK**.  
If you can't walk, then **CRAWL**.

But whatever you do,

**YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.**



Martin Luther King, Jr. – Civil Rights Activist and Pastor

# Summary of Dweck's *Mindset*

## Fixed vs Growth

ability is static

avoids challenges

gives up easily

sees effort as fruitless

ignores useful criticism

threatened by others



ability is developed

embraces challenges

persists in obstacles

sees effort as necessary

learns from criticism

inspired by others' success

**A Growth Mindset is needed to prepare with Freedom, not bondage- The whole point of Advent!**

**What does Growth Mindset look like in the Bible? Any scriptural basis? ( we want to start here so we are not just walking in Humanistic worldview). If it is biblical- what does it mean for you? Write this down**

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**What does it have to do with Christmas? Jesus came as a \_\_\_\_\_**

**You can share with the person next you (pairs) if we have time. Would you say that Prayer is part of your identity? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**In what areas of your life do you not feel free? Do you feel you are making Bricks for someone else rather than accomplishing what you were meant to do, or areas where you need oil to be prepared? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What 1 thing can you have a growth Mindset about that will help you prepare, Be patient with yourself and others about and let God help you with? You may not be prepared like Daniel or the 5 wise virgins- YET but to patiently improve I am going to (even if I make Mistakes)**

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**For Next time... Practical applications of preparation...**

**What Advent is (Last Week)** ... and how it is a mindset for ALL prayer we do. Preparation for a celebration of FREEDOM and Identity in a spirit of Patience and a growth mindset. Matt 22 (God prepping a wedding party) and Matt 25- Wedding guest (10 Virgins) coming to a wedding) Being our examples, but understanding that even in mistakes we can grow from them.

**How an Advent Prayer mindset looks (This week)** Ps 37 being our Guide. Looking to cultivate Faithfulness in the little things like Daniel, but also having an intentional mindset of what we can envision like Nehemiah.

# **Psalms 37: 3-5**

**What does it look like to wait like a child for Christmas?**

- 1. Trust-Begin with faith, Like my parents love me and will do what they can for me.**
- 2. Dwell- Like Dwelling at home for the Holidays...**
- 3. Cultivate faithfulness (Preparation), like going to bed, going to midnight mass, helping out with cooking- whatever it takes..**

# Psalm 37: 3-5

Cont.

## Being a Child for Christ...

4. Delight- Attitude. Seeing a kid's open the packages is what God longs to see... The delight kids have when they get what they want is precious. God wants this for us as well, but he wants us to want things that give true joy, not just temporary joy.
5. THEN He will give you the desires of your heart. The presents!  
**THEN HE WILL GIVE YOU WHAT TO DESIRE not just what you desire!**
6. Commit your way to the Lord and trust He will do it... This is how we are to pray... Going all in with God's Kingdom like the green berets.... Daniel was a Green Beret for God as a prayer warrior, even being willing to go to a den for God.



**Put God First....**

***Think Big!***  
***Pray Big!***  
***Make your Bed***  
***Regularly!***





**a. What are some character traits, or actions, etc. that children exhibit at Christmas time traditionally.**

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**b. Are they intentional about what they want?**

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**c. What would you do if a Child asks you what do you want me to have for Christmas?**

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**d. What 1 thing can you do to be more faithful in prayer?**

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