

Create



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Breath of God

Ask someone to read **Isaiah 61:1-11**. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Our passage today offers another message of hope to the displaced Israelites.

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing** or **Visual** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ Create- Writing

In the first verse of our text in Isaiah we read about the Lord sending Isaiah to bring good news to the oppressed, broken hearted, captives, and those grieving. How appropriate is it then that on this day, during the Advent season, many celebrate JOY? The Good News of Christ, that Christ loves us and never leaves us, can be such a JOY to hear when you are brokenhearted or grieving. Think of several people from school, work, your neighborhood, community, or church that are grieving about something, seem down or brokenhearted, or someone that has been on your mind. Take time pray for them. Then, write them a note or at least, write a “rough draft” of a note and sometime this week rewrite that note in a Christmas card and mail it. We are all in need of some Good News. Be a bearer of Good News for others in your life.

✓ Create- Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Each year I love seeing the Chrismon decorations on trees at church and in my home. Chrismons are decorations made from “symbols used represent a

variety of biblical and theological concepts that are well known among most believers. Often, if the ornaments on a Christmas tree are comprised mostly of Christian symbols, the tree is known as a Chrismon Tree. Chrismons are white with gold decorations of beads, ribbon, glitter, etc. It is common, however, to see these ancient Christian designs in other colors than white and gold.”¹ Using any images from our scripture text today, design one or several Chrismon ornaments to hang on your tree. Each time you glance at these ornaments, take time to recall what they represent during this Advent season.

✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✓ Close

Offer a prayer asking God to help us, as Christians in our communities, to be bearers of Good News, Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love to those who are broken, grieving, lonely, or just sad.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group’s special gathering place).

By Carra Hughes Greer

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