

Dec 15, 24“Longing for the River of Life” – Leaders’ Guide
Rev. 22:1-7, 16-17, 20)

1. Did you grow up in a tradition that paid attention to Advent? What were the practices/emphases in your tradition?

Time for sharing.

2. How does Advent as a ‘season of longing’ resonate with you? Do you think it is helpful to have a season in which we focus on expectation and longing?

Time for sharing. Advent is a particularly meaningful season because it encapsulates the season that the church is in ever since Jesus left – we ‘live in Advent’, in the now-and-not-yet tension, experiencing some healing but still longing for the fullness of healing. It can be a healing thing in itself just to acknowledge the pain and that Jesus will come to make all things right.

3. Where are some places that Karen mentioned the tree of life is mentioned or hinted at in the Bible? Can you think of any others?

Gen 2; Num 21; Ezek 47; the Cross

4. Read Ezek 47:1-12. What are some of the features of the river of life from Ezek 47? How is this river similar to, or different from, the river found in Rev 22?

Both are describing the river of life. Ezek: it flows from the altar; Rev: it flows from the throne. Ezek: many kinds of trees; Rev: one tree. Ezek: leaves for healing in general; Rev: leaves for the healing of the nations.

5. Read John 7:37-39? How can we understand Jesus as the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophesy?

Jesus is the source of the water of life that Ezekiel, without knowing it, prophesied about. The image of the water flowing from the altar is a powerful image of Jesus’ sacrifice giving us life.

6. Does the picture in Rev 22 give you hope? Why or why not?

Time for sharing.