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**November 30th 2025**

**Sermon: When Heaven Broke Through: Hope Week 1 of Advent**

**Main text: Isaiah 9:2-7; Matthew 1:18-21**

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What does this story tell me about God?

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2. What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?

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3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?

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4. Who am I, going to tell?

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### **Other, Key quotes; points and questions to reflect on and discuss from Ryan's message:**

#### **Key Points:**

- God's "heaven-to-earth" intervention matters — The coming of Christ is more than historical: it's a cosmic, spiritual shift that continues to impact our lives.
- Advent isn't nostalgia — it's expectation — Advent invites us to anticipate and pay attention to heavenly breakthroughs, remaining open to what God wants to do now, not just remembering what He did.
- Heaven breaks through often in hidden, ordinary places — Not always in dramatic signs or miracles, but often through small, humble circumstances, relationships, compassion, and everyday faithfulness.
- Belief changes how we live — When we truly embrace that heaven has broken through, it shapes our hope, our sense of identity (as children of God), and our response to suffering, injustice, and need.
- We are called to participate in God's redemptive work — Recognizing heaven's breakthrough compels believers to bring hope, justice, mercy, and light into a broken world, reflecting the kingdom of God now.

#### **Key Quotes:**

- "When heaven broke through, the cosmos changed — heaven touched earth, and the world was never the same."
- "Advent isn't just about what happened 2,000 years ago; it's about what God still wants to do when heaven meets earth."
- "Sometimes heaven breaks through quietly — in whispered prayers, in everyday obedience, in small acts of mercy."
- "To believe that heaven has broken through is to live with hope, compassion and expectation."
- Ye-shua... "The Lord Saves". "This says who God is and what God does"

### **Key Questions from the message:**

1. What does the phrase “heaven broke through” mean to you personally — both in the original Christmas story and in your life today?
2. In what ways have you experienced moments of God’s “breakthrough” lately? Can you identify times when heaven intersected with your everyday reality?
3. Are there areas of your life (fear, doubt, brokenness) where you need to invite heaven to break through — and how will you pray or respond to see that happen?
4. What does Ryan’s research regarding what others hope for around the world bring to mind and your heart for you as a group or family?
5. As a family, group, or community, how can we position ourselves to be part of God’s redemptive “breakthrough in your sphere of influence” bringing hope, love, and justice into our world?