



**Date:** 12.10.23

**Title:** And Then I See a Darkness

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:18-21

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

Advent is something many are familiar with. Each year we ready ourselves for the coming of our king, Jesus. It is a season. A moment. A way of organizing our time. And we dare not lose the organizing of our time; when we do, we are just left with something else...something out of rhythm, something that has no beat – static, mush, white noise. But with Advent, we find ourselves pausing, expecting, looking ahead, anticipating, because something invaded our calendars and offered cadence. It's always been this way- time was built into the fabric of the cosmos from the very beginning. The creation poem in Genesis 1 has its own cadence: evening and morning. Day and night. Dark and light. This wisdom teaches us that darkness has its place in keeping a rhythm for our very lives. This is something modern science is teaching us too; our bodies need darkness to establish a rhythm for health. Without the darkness, there is only static.

### **Teaching**

With every bit of revelation we receive from God, with everything that is made known there are also some things that remain hidden in the dark. We see this when God comes to his people Israel when they are at the base of Mt. Siani. At no other time in their life had God revealed himself so completely, and yet there was darkness.

The writer of Exodus tells us plainly after God had spoken the Ten Words, “The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was” (Exodus 20.21). This specific Hebrew word *araphel* speaks of a darkness reserved for God. One that reveals and conceals. Which, if this teaches us anything it is this; even the darkness can reveal God to us.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

1. What is the best/most memorable holiday gift you've ever given or received?

### **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. What are you sitting in anticipation for in this season of life?
2. Do you have any moments in your own life that you felt God concealed himself for a time, but revealed himself later?
3. What's your relationship with sitting in the dark, or the mystery of God like?
4. How are you making space for the dark in your life and spiritual practices?

### **Spiritual Practice:**

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Advent Week 2](#)