

Life Group Questions – “Waiting” (12/24)

Overview:

Today is our final sermon in our series “Doing Christmas”. The goal of this series has been to identify ways we as Christians can ease stress, increase joy, and encounter Jesus through the things we are already doing at Christmas time. Today’s teaching is on “waiting”. Once all the decorations are up and all the gifts have been bought, we reach a point in time where we are simply waiting for Christmas day. How can we make sure that we don’t waste this time of waiting?

Icebreaker:

What is the longest you’ve waiting for something? Was it easy to wait? What are some things you did while you waited?

Passage: Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

*²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

*³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”*

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Question 1:

What is it that Simeon and Anna were waiting for? Are we waiting for anything similar nowadays?

Question 2:

Have you ever had someone break a promise? How did that make you feel?

Question 3:

How does knowing that God is the one who made this promise to us, affect you? Do you find it easy to trust God? Why or why not?

Question 4:

What are some things we can do to make sure we don't waste our waiting?

Pray for one another