

Cultivate Reflection Guide

December 5/6, 2020 Light: What We've Been Waiting On

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

NEW Series: The coming of Christmas isn't just a chance to manufacture hope – it represents the coming of a very real gift to every single one of us. Join us over the next several weeks as we find out about the real hope God has promised to us. Whether in community or through your own personal reflection time, respond to one or more of the following questions to live out what we're learning on the weekends.

1. Waiting for Light: Throughout history, God's people have waited for light – through darkness, in trials and with hope. Much like us, some have waited better than others. One thing remains true – when we're willing to wait, God shows up and when He does, nothing can stand in His way.

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.” John 1:5 NLT

- What kind of “waiter” are you? Do you wait patiently or do you take matters into your own hands?
- What is something you are waiting for? Be REAL with self. You might be waiting on something to happen *around* you, but you could also be waiting on something to happen *within* you.

2. God is Working: Christmas reminds us that when we are waiting, God is working – still, even if, always. Which means, we don't wait without God, we wait with Him.

- Fill in the blank – “Even though I wait, God gives me _____.”
- How do you experience God doing that work in you? What does it look like or feel like?
- If you find you're waiting without God, how do you want to invite Him into your wait today?

3. God is in Control: In the middle of the wait, it can be hard to keep hoping for what we cannot see. It's in these moments that we need to hang on to faith and remember that the same God who set creation into motion is in command of our life. We don't wait without hope, instead we watch for His every move.

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see...By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.” Hebrews 11:1, 3 NLT

“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.” Deuteronomy 31:8 NLT

- Where in your life do you need to remember that God is control?
- Are you willing to believe in what you can't see and trust that God has personally gone ahead of you?
- Pray, telling God what you hope for and inviting the Holy Spirit to help you watch for Him to move. It may not look exactly as you ask, but acknowledge God whenever you see, hear or feel Him move in you, through you or around you. Be expectant...God is with you!

4. Make Room for Light: The halls are decked, but maybe you don't feel so merry. The good news? God became human and there is nothing you are facing today that our Father does not know. Wherever you find yourself, make room for light. Spend time with Jesus, cultivate His word into your life and let Him remind you that His unfailing love and faithfulness are REAL.

“The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone...But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God...So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.” John 1:4,12,14

Dig Deeper: To help us focus on the true Light of the World, Sandals Church has introduced a weekly bible reading plan called Light: Finding REAL Hope in a Dark World. Download the Sandals Church app and dig deeper into the Christmas story!