



Summer @ CHRIST CHURCH

Waiting on the Lord in the Midst of Suffering

WORSHIP

Read Romans 11:33-36 aloud. Take a moment to reflect on God's Word and center in Him.

FELLOWSHIP

-What does Independence Day mean to you? What is one thing you appreciate about America?

-How are everyone's commitments going to PLEA (Pray, Listen, Engage, and/or Acknowledge)? How did everyone live out last week's sermon and discussion?

DISCUSSION

Watch this [sermon overview video](#) to refresh your group on this week's message. Then discuss the questions below. If you're studying a book, RightNow Media series, etc., transition to discussion and try to include questions that address head, heart, and hands.

1. Share about a time you had a long wait in line, in traffic, on hold, etc.

-What was happening in you as you waited?

-Why do you think people hate waiting so much?

2. Read Psalm 130.

-What is waiting on God like for the Psalmist? How do you understand the repeated phrase “more than watchmen wait for the morning” (v. 6)?

-What does this Psalm tell us about God? How does it point to the gospel?

3. What are you waiting for? Have you ever felt tired of waiting or doubted that God would show up?

4. Pastor Syler encouraged us to bring our pain to God and find hope in His Word when we suffer.

-How do you typically process pain, anger, and other strong emotions? What is it like to bring these to God?

-What has been your primary source of hope in recent months? What does it mean to put your hope in His Word?

5. Pastor Syler noted that many spiritual disciplines have to do with waiting (e.g., fasting, prayer, solitude, giving).

-Why might God want us to cultivate a lifestyle of waiting for Him? What do such practices produce in us?

-Respond to this quote from Dallas Willard: “You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”

-Is there something you can try this week to grow your capacity to wait, to eliminate hurry, or to hope in God?

PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests; try to remember any needs that came up during the fellowship or discussion time. Check in on requests from last week, if you can. Does anyone have a practical need that another group member may be able to help with?

Pray for group, church, and community needs. Consider praying the “O” Antiphons, traditionally recited in the final days of Advent, the season of waiting for Christ’s arrival.

O Wisdom, O holy word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and show your people the way to salvation.

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; rulers stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

O Key of David, O royal power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Ruler of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O keystone of the mighty arch of humankind: Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

O Emmanuel, ruler and lawgiver, desire of the nations, savior of all people: Come and set us free, Lord our God.¹

¹ Bobby Gross, *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God* (Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2009), 41-42.