



THE STORY THE CALL OF ABRAHAM & BIRTH FORETOLD

WORSHIP

Read Isaiah 11:1-5 aloud. Take a moment to reflect on God's Word and center in Him.

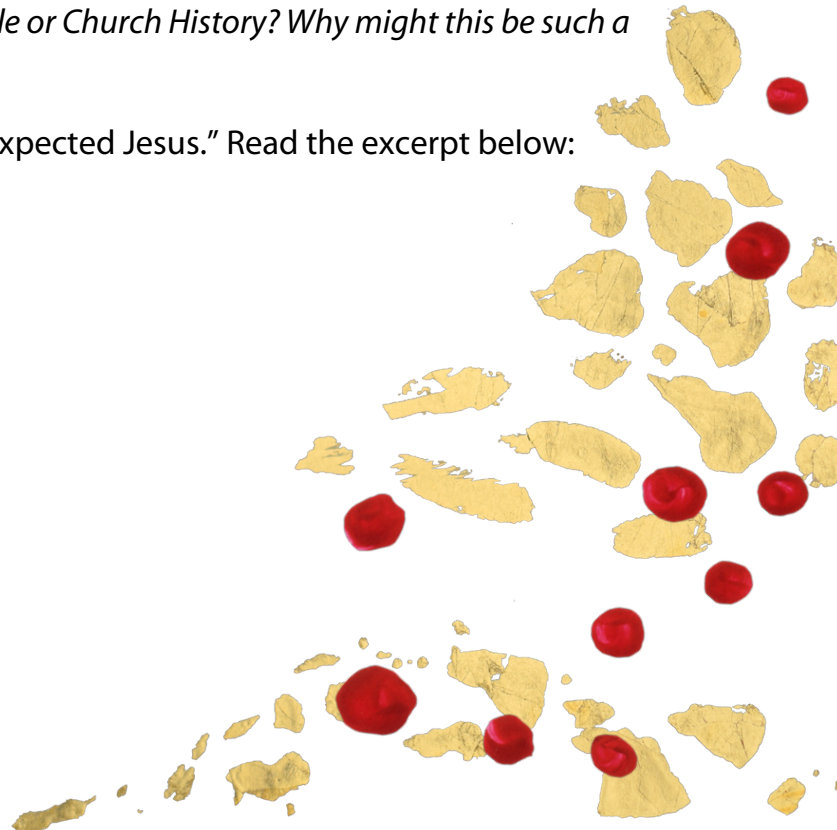
FELLOWSHIP

What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why?

DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 12:1-9.
 - a. *What does this passage reveal about God?*
 - b. *What can we learn from Abraham* (see also Hebrews 11:8-12)?*
 - c. *What significance does this passage have in the Story of God's people? For us?*
2. Both Abraham's life and the prophets have something to teach us about waiting. Adele Calhoun writes, "Waiting is where we learn to let go of our control and expectations, and trust that God is good no matter what is happening."¹
 - a. *What happens in you when you have to wait for something?*
 - b. *Are you waiting for anything now?*
 - c. *Has God ever used a time of waiting to change you?*
 - d. *Where else do we see waiting in the Bible or Church History? Why might this be such a prominent theme in The Story?*
3. On Sunday, we sang "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." Read the excerpt below:

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*



a. What does this song say about Jesus?

b. What does this song say about us?

c. How can we invite Jesus to “Rule in all our hearts alone” as we celebrate His arrival and await His return?

4. Respond to this quote from Anglican Priest Tish Harrison Warren:

We live in a waiting world, a world where time itself, along with all of creation, groans in childbirth, waiting for something to be born...Waiting, therefore, is an act of faith in that it is oriented toward the future. Yet our assurance of hope is rooted in the past, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and in his promises and resurrection. In this way, waiting, like time itself, centers on Christ—the fulcrum of time.²

5. How will you respond to what you’re learning about The Story this week?

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. Thank God for all the blessings that were shared during your discussion time.

FOOTNOTE

*Abram is renamed Abraham in Genesis 17:5.

1 Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2015), 139.

2 Tish Harrison Warren, *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2016), 108.



