



Sermon Discussion Guide

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, 2024

"What Are We Waiting For?"

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

This Advent season, the "Joy to the World" sermon series invites us to rediscover the deep and abiding joy found in the promises of God. As we navigate the challenges of waiting, longing, and hope, we'll reflect on the transformative power of Christ's coming—past, present, and future. Join us as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the Savior who brings true joy to the world.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [HopeOnline.tv](#). Did you have any "ah-ha" moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Isaiah 9:2-7](#) – *"The Darkness Turns to Light"*

- How does the promise of light in Isaiah speak to someone experiencing deep darkness today?
- What do the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," and "Prince of Peace" reveal about the character of Jesus?
- What difference does it make to trust in God's promises, even when circumstances seem bleak?
- How might God use your waiting to draw you closer to him or shape your life for a greater purpose?

Read [Lamentations 3:19-23](#)

- Why do you think Jeremiah was able to move from lament to hope in this passage?
- How can remembering God's faithfulness in the past help you trust him in the present?
- What specific practices could help you cultivate a deeper awareness of God's daily mercies?
- How can you share God's hope and compassion with someone else who feels consumed by life's struggles?

Read [Psalm 40:1-3](#) – *"Of David"*

- How does this psalm speak to the difficulty of waiting on God's timing?
- What does it mean for God to "lift us out of the mud and mire" in a spiritual or emotional sense?
- How can sharing your story of God's faithfulness inspire others to put their trust in him?
- What steps can you take to praise God and trust him, even before you see the answers to your prayers?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- Reflect on a current season of waiting in your life. Write down one specific promise of God that you can hold onto and commit to reading it daily this week.
- Reach out to someone you know who is struggling with waiting, and be present to listen to them and pray for them. How can your story of God's faithfulness be helpful to others in times of waiting?
- Set aside 30 minutes this week to pray and listen for God's direction in your season of waiting. Then, take one step of faith that reflects trust in his promises.