



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Dec. 6 & 7, 2025

"What Do Prophets Do ... Then & Now?"

[Isaiah 49:3-8](#)

This Advent, we will dive into questions about this season that impact our everyday lives. Questions about the Christmas blues, prophecy, peace, and joy. Join Hope this Advent as we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the greatest gift we have ever received—Jesus.

### 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](https://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 49:3-8](#) – "The Lord's Servant Commissioned"

- God tells his people, "At just the right time, I will respond to you." What does "the right time" feel like in your life right now—too slow, unclear, or hopeful? Where do you see yourself wanting to rush ahead to Christmas rather than sit in the season of Advent? What would it look like to trust that God is working even when you can't see movement yet?
- Isaiah's message came to people who wondered if God had forgotten them. When have you felt overlooked, unseen, or unsure whether God notices your situation? How does this passage, and the sermon's reminder that God never forgets his people, speak to that feeling? What helps you remember that God's timing is rooted in his love, not your performance?
- God promises to make his servant "a light to the nations," bringing salvation far beyond what his people expected. How does this widen your view of what God might be doing during your own season of waiting? Where might God be preparing something larger than you imagined? What hope does this give you as you wait for prayers that still feel unanswered?
- The sermon emphasized that Advent waiting is not passive, it's a spiritual discipline that strengthens us and shapes our faith. How have seasons of waiting matured or redirected you in ways you didn't expect? What part of God's character (faithfulness, goodness, presence, light) do you need to hold onto most right now? What is one intentional practice this week that could help you "wait for it" with deeper trust?

#### Read [Habakkuk 2:2-3](#) – "The Lord's Second Reply"

- Habakkuk is told to write the vision clearly so people can carry it with them. What are the "visions" or promises of God you hold onto when life feels uncertain? Where do you struggle to believe God is still working? What reminder from the sermon helped you see God's timing differently?
- God says the fulfillment "waits for an appointed time." Where in your life does God feel late or slow? How did the sermon challenge the idea that God's delay equals God's absence? What happens in your heart when you consider that God may be preparing something you can't yet see?
- "If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently." What does patient waiting look like for you spiritually, emotionally, or practically? How have seasons of waiting shaped your faith in ways that rushing never could? What would help you lean into waiting as a discipline rather than a frustration this Advent?
- This passage assures that God's promise "will not be delayed," meaning it will arrive exactly when it should. How does that truth speak to something you are longing for right now? How might trusting God's perfect timing change your approach this week? What daily practice could help you keep hope alive even when nothing appears to be changing?

#### Read [Luke 2:29-32](#) – "The Prophecy of Simeon"

- What strikes you about Simeon finally seeing God's promise fulfilled in front of him? How does this moment connect to the sermon's theme of "wait for it"? Where have you recently sensed God working even if the timing wasn't what you expected?
- How does Simeon's peaceful surrender ("now let your servant die in peace") challenge our usual impatience during seasons of waiting? What does his response teach you about trusting God's timing? Where might you need to slow down and notice God's presence rather than rushing to the next thing?
- How have you seen God's light breaking into a dark place in your own life? What does this invite you to reflect on during this season?
- Simeon recognizes Jesus as salvation even before anything outwardly changes, what does that reveal about hope that comes before resolution? How might this shape the way you approach your own longing or unanswered prayers? What would it look like to reflect Christ's light to someone else who is still waiting for hope to arrive?

### Read [Psalm 27:13-14](#) – “A Psalm of David”

- David declares confidence that he will see the Lord’s goodness “in the land of the living.” Where do you find it hard to believe that goodness is still ahead for you? How did the sermon’s reminder that “this moment is holy” challenge your perspective on waiting? What signs of God’s goodness have you seen even in small ways lately?
- “Wait patiently for the Lord” can feel discouraging when life feels heavy or slow. What emotions rise up in you when you hear that command? How did Pastor Mike’s stories about Advent, candlelight, and slowing down reshape how you view the waiting process? What do you tend to do when God feels silent or delayed?
- Being brave and courageous in waiting suggests that waiting takes strength, not passivity. Where do you feel spiritually, relationally, or emotionally weary right now? How might remembering God’s faithfulness, repeated throughout Scripture and the sermon, give you courage? What step could you take this week that reflects courage rather than fear?
- The psalm repeats the call to wait as if we need the reminder more than once. Where do you feel tempted to rush ahead, skip the “adventure,” or force your own timing? How might slowing down help you notice God in places you normally miss him? What intentional rhythm or boundary could help you dwell more fully in the present moment with God?

## APPLY

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

- **Pause for Advent stillness.** Choose one moment each day to deliberately stop—no phone, no noise, no multitasking—and sit in quiet for two to three minutes. In that stillness, acknowledge whatever you’re carrying and whisper a simple prayer: “God, help me see your light in this moment.” Let this small daily pause retrain your heart to wait on God rather than rush through the season.
- **Practice hopeful waiting.** Choose one area of life where you feel stuck, discouraged, or impatient. Each day, pause to pray Habakkuk 2:3 or Psalm 27:14 over that specific situation. Ask God to form patience, trust, and hope in you as you wait.
- **Share light with someone else.** Intentionally bring Christ’s light to someone walking through a difficult season, through a visit, a handwritten note, a meal, or a heartfelt prayer. Make this an act of Advent obedience, a way to embody Luke 2:29-32 by helping someone else “see” God’s salvation and hope through you.