



WAITING FOR JESUS

Sermon Summary: Pastor Tara Beth focuses on the theme of waiting, particularly during the Advent season as we anticipate the coming of Jesus. She begins by acknowledging the impatience prevalent in our culture, where waiting is often seen as wasted time. Through personal anecdotes and biblical examples, particularly the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth from Luke 1, the sermon explores how waiting is not merely an obstacle but a sacred time for transformation and growth. Zechariah and Elizabeth, despite being righteous and blameless, faced the challenge of childlessness, a situation that tested their faith and patience. The sermon highlights how God heard their prayers even in silence, emphasizing that waiting is not a period of inactivity but a time when God is at work in unseen ways. The speaker suggests that waiting can be a "laboratory for transformation," where God aligns our lives with His will, builds character, and fosters hope. The sermon encourages the congregation to view waiting as a holy time, urging them to ask God what He is forming in them during these periods. It challenges listeners to adopt a posture of hopefulness and openness, recognizing that silence is not God's absence but an opportunity for deep spiritual work. Ultimately, the message is about embracing waiting as a divine gift, allowing God to shape and prepare us for His purposes.

Conversation Starter: Think back to a time in your life when you were waiting — maybe for a job, a relationship, healing, clarity, or even just a decision. What was going on in your heart during that wait? If you could go back and speak to your ‘waiting self,’ what would you say?”

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts to Your word, Your truth, and Your direction. Amen!

Read Scripture together: Luke 1:5-23

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- What feelings come up for you when you think about “waiting”? (impatient, hopeful, anxious, expectant, weary, etc.). Why? How have the daily book reflections impacted your understanding of waiting?
- In the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, they waited faithfully though barren and beyond typical child-bearing years. What does their story teach us about hope and trust when nothing is happening on the surface?
- Villodas describes waiting as a spiritual discipline rather than passivity. What might it look like for us — practically — to “wait well” in the everyday complexity of life or church community?
- The sermon discusses how our culture views waiting as wasted time. How do you see this impatience manifesting in your own life, and what steps can you take to cultivate patience?
- Advent — and by extension this season of waiting — often stirs longing (for peace, wholeness, fulfillment). What are you longing for right now? How might you invite God into that longing rather than rush past it?
- In our fast-paced world (social media, constant busyness, instant news), what are the challenges to waiting well as believers? How can we resist those pressures?
- What hopes or fears do you carry into this season of waiting?
- How can our group support each other in maintaining hope and perseverance during times of waiting? What practical steps can we take to encourage one another in these seasons?

Memory Verse: Luke 1:13

"But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.'"

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we come with grateful hearts, thanking You for the time we've spent together in fellowship and reflection. Lord Jesus, in this season of waiting, we acknowledge how often we rush. We confess that we struggle with impatience, fear, and wanting to control what only You see. Help us — by Your Spirit — to learn the holy art of waiting: to rest in Your timing, to lean into Your promise, and to trust that what is hidden now is being made new in our hearts. Grant us peace in the waiting, patience in the stillness, and hope that waits with open hands. May waiting shape us — not weary us — and may we emerge from this season more formed by You. We pray this in Your name. Amen.