



Life Group  
Discussion  
Guide  
Week Five  
12/28/25

# WAITING FOR JESUS

**Sermon Summary:** In this sermon, Ryan and Bethany explore the familiar yet profound story of Christmas, emphasizing the importance of distinguishing between cultural embellishments and the biblical narrative. They humorously highlight how the Christmas story has evolved over time, often resembling a game of "telephone," where details are added or altered. The sermon underscores that while cultural traditions and nostalgic elements of Christmas are not inherently wrong, they should not overshadow the true meaning of the holiday. Ryan and Bethany delve into the biblical account, clarifying common misconceptions such as the presence of an innkeeper, the number of wise men, and the setting of Jesus's birth. They emphasize that Jesus was born into a humble and challenging environment, symbolizing God's choice of humility over comfort. The sermon also touches on the broader context of Jesus's life, including the threat from King Herod and the family's escape to Egypt, illustrating the real-world challenges faced by the Holy Family. Ryan and Bethany encourage the congregation to live out the message of Christmas daily, not just during the holiday season. They suggest practical ways to embody the spirit of Christmas, such as showing kindness, patience, and love to others, serving those in need, and being present in the lives of those around us. The sermon concludes with a reminder that Christmas is about God's presence with us in our messiness and brokenness, offering peace and hope through Jesus Christ.

**Conversation Starter:** Discuss a family tradition that helps you focus on the true meaning of Christmas. How does this tradition help you connect with the biblical story of Jesus's birth?

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

**Read Scripture together:** Luke 2:1-20

## 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:

- How has the cultural portrayal of Christmas influenced your understanding of the biblical story? What new insights did you gain from the sermon about the actual events of Jesus's birth?
- The sermon emphasized God's choice of humility over comfort in Jesus's birth. How does this challenge or inspire you in your own life and faith journey?
- The Holy Family faced significant challenges, such as fleeing to Egypt. How does their story encourage you in times of difficulty or uncertainty?
- The multitude of angels proclaimed Jesus's birth. What does this heavenly announcement reveal about the significance of Jesus's arrival?
- What significance do you find in the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh presented by the Magi? How do these gifts reflect the identity and mission of Jesus?
- The sermon highlighted that God enters our messiness and brokenness. Can you share a personal experience where you felt God's presence in a difficult situation?
- What are some practical ways you can embody the spirit of Christmas throughout the year, as suggested in the sermon? How can these practices impact your community?
- How can prayer and reflection on the Christmas story deepen your relationship with God? What specific aspects of the story would you like to meditate on more deeply?

## Memory Verse: Luke 2:11

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, reflecting on the profound mystery and beauty of the Christmas story. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, into our world with humility and love, to be our Savior and guide. As we have gathered to discuss and meditate on Your Word, we ask that You help us carry the true spirit of Christmas in our hearts throughout the year. Lord, teach us to live out the message of Your love and grace in our daily lives. May we be instruments of Your peace, showing kindness, patience, and compassion to those around us. Help us to see the world through Your eyes, reaching out to those in need and sharing the hope that comes from knowing You. We pray for the strength to embrace humility, just as Jesus did, and to trust in Your presence amidst our messiness and challenges. Let Your light shine through us, illuminating the path for others to see Your glory. As we go our separate ways, may Your Holy Spirit continue to guide and inspire us. Keep us united in love and purpose, and may our lives be a testament to the joy and salvation that Jesus brings. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.