



WAITING: An Advent Series Life Group Study Outline



Recommended Resources

- 'The Advent Series' by The Bible Project
<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-advent-series/>
- 'The Prophets, Exile and Hope of a King' – sermon by JT English (The Village Church)
<https://www.tvresources.net/resource-library/sermons/the-prophets-exile-and-the-hope-of-a-king>
- 'Good News of Great Joy: 25 Advent Meditations' by John Piper
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/great-joy>
- All the Gospel Coalition resources on Advent
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/topics/advent/>

1. Waiting for a King (1st December: Andrew)

Main Points

- 2 Kings 25:27-30 – the end of the OT narrative: the king lives. We live in this time of exile. But if the king still lives, exile still carries hope.
- Jeremiah 33:14-18 / Isaiah 9:2-7 – the promise & covenant of God is the line of Davidic kings will go on, and there is eternal hope in that.
- “The good news of Advent is that our King *came* and our King is *coming*. Your exile is not going to last forever. Whatever you’re walking through in this season... The holidays can bring seasons of depression and guilt and shame and despair and bad diagnoses and diseases and death. Those are just symptoms of exile. We should certainly pray for all of those things to be remedied, but our greater prayer should be, “Come, Lord Jesus, and end our exile.” (JT English)

Suggested Questions

- What does it mean for us to live knowing that “our King *came* and our King is *coming*”?
- How do we maintain hope in the future return of Jesus? And why is this important?
- How do we remain as people of joy, peace, hope and love in our time of waiting?

2. Waiting in Silence (15th December: Andrew)

Main Points

- There is a period of silence between the two testaments, around 400 years.
- In the period of silence, there are many ‘false messiahs’ that arise.
- Malachi 3:1-4 / Micah 5:2-5 – give hints to what we are looking for

Suggested Questions

- What do you do in times of silence? What do you hang onto? What does this look like practically?
- How do you discern false prophets / messiahs / teaching? What are we really looking for?

3. Waiting Faithfully (22nd December: Joel)

Main Points

- Luke 2:25-38 – Simeon & Anna represent this ‘remnant’ of Israel who were ready, waiting for the Messiah. Advent is a reminder that we should always be the same, ready & waiting.
- So much of the NT language is around waiting, watching, be in guard – while the King has come, the King is also coming again!

Suggested Questions

- How do we wait faithfully for Jesus?
- Do a bible search on the words ‘guard’ or ‘wait’ or ‘watch’ in the New Testament and see what the Bible has to say about it all.