

# Advent

## Christmas Series 2023 Outline & Questions

### Hope for the Waiting - Sunday, Nov. 26

1. What are some significant things you've had to wait for? Why did you choose to wait? Was it worth the wait?
2. After reading **Romans 8:18-25**, how would you define *hope*? What images of hope do we see in these verses?
3. In light of **Romans 8:18**, consider some of the suffering situations to which God gave the prophetic hope of the long-awaited Messiah. (**Gen. 3:15, Num. 24:17, Is. 9:6, Luke 1:31-33**)
4. With **Romans 8:25** in mind, how does the hope of Jesus speak patience to our current suffering? Conversely, how does our current suffering speak to the need for a patient hope that is only found in Jesus?

### Love is the Wonder - Sunday, Dec. 3

1. In your opinion, is Christmas the most wonderful time of the year? Is there something about Christmas that causes wonder to well up in you?
2. Read **Luke 2:8-20,28-33**. Take time to note every instance of wonder in this portion of the Christmas Story. Why did these people respond in shock, awe and wonder?
3. What do you think the title *Wonderful Counselor* means? (**Isaiah 9:6**) How is Jesus the *Wonderful Counselor*?
4. Consider why the ultimate wonder of Christmas is God's love having come down.

### Joy beyond a Wish - Sunday, Dec. 10

1. Are wish lists just a childish thing for kids who believe in Santa? What are you wishing for in this season? Does your wish seem unattainable?
2. Why did the angelic announcement, in **Luke 2:10**, include *Great Joy*? How would you define *joy*?
3. How did the wisemen respond to the joy welling within them according to **Matthew 2:9-11**? Would you say this is an appropriate response to the Newborn King? Why?
4. What is Jesus calling us to do if we have encountered *His Joy*? (**Matt. 13:44-46**)

### Peace that Works - Sunday, Dec. 17

1. Has Christmas ever felt like work? How do you handle the stress in the season?
2. Why is Jesus called the *Prince of Peace* in **Isaiah 9:6**?
3. How has Jesus accomplished the work of peace for us? Consider **Isaiah 53:5, John 14:27; 16:33**.
4. In what ways will the *Prince of Peace* work in the busyness of your Christmas Season?