



Connect Group Discussion Guide

1. In this Advent sermon series, one of the themes is that of “waiting”. We asked last week how you really feel when you have to wait. How do you wait? The theme of waiting in this series is indicative of focused, helpful waiting and is described in three ways:
 - Anticipation- there is an excitement that builds (preparing the mind)
 - Space- making space in your life for what God is going to do (preparing the heart)
 - Hope- light in the darkness (preparing the spirit)In your waiting periods, do you feel any of these descriptors? Why or why not?
2. Anticipation: From the verses, there was an anticipation that Jesus could do something about Lazarus’ sickness, that is the reason they sent for Him. In what areas of your life do you have anticipate for Jesus to show up and intervene? What had Jesus done for you in the past that gives you this sense of anticipation?
3. They were disappointed that He didn’t show up immediately because their anticipation shifted into an expectation that He would do what they wanted Him to do when they wanted Him to do it. Have you ever experienced disappointment? Did this change your faith in God? If so, why?
4. Space: Mary and Martha gave Jesus different kinds of spaces. Mary gave Jesus a small space in which to work (only the time of Lazarus’ sickness), and Martha gave Him a bit more space (more areas of her life). Advent waiting is in place to give us time to make space for what God is going to do. What space have you made for God?
5. Hope: Mary lost anticipation when it appeared that it was not going to happen as she expected. But God...God came through in authority and power. He did this for them, not for Himself. How have you seen God come through for you? Share the story.
6. What can you praise God for right now...as you wait on Him?

“I Am”

Week of December 6, 2020

Main Idea

Anticipation, space, and hope are three indicators of focused, helpful waiting. God wants to do something in you during the wait.

Key Scripture Reference(s)

Read aloud:
John 11

Your Faith in Action

What steps will you take this week to **show** others what you believe (in words, and in deeds)?

Mon: _____

Tue: _____

Wed: _____

Thu: _____

Fri: _____

Sat: _____

Sun: _____

This is a constant element, so you can practically live out your faith everyday.