



Christmas begins with a time of waiting.

- Advent = Something to come

**God's silence is not absence.**

*Malachi 4:5-6, Hebrews 13:5, Lamentations 3:25–26*

**What should we do while we're waiting on God?**

**1. Be obedient**

*Luke 1:6, John 14:15*

- Obedience doesn't equal expedience.

**2. Cultivate character**

*Romans 5:4, 2 Peter 1:5–7*

- God often chooses the least likely character, but rarely chooses those with the least character.

**3. Hang onto hope**

*Romans 15:13, Psalm 130:5-6*

**God often makes us wait, not because he's forgotten us, but because he's forming us.**

**Small Group Questions:**

1. Have you ever experienced a long season where God felt silent? What was that like for you?
2. Why do you think God sometimes allows long seasons of silence?
3. What is one area where God may be calling you to remain faithful even if you don't see immediate change?

**Be Intentional:**

If you had to choose one action this week (obedience, character cultivation, or holding onto hope), which one would you lean into? How will you do that?

**Pray:**

Spend time praying together. What are some ways in which you can pray for each other? Take some time in the coming week to explore ways in which you can encourage one another. Remember to share with your group what you are learning about those opportunities and reflect on God's Word as you pray for each other.