



# IMMANUEL CHURCH

**Discussion Guide: Just Waiting**  
**December 17, 2017**

## **Opening Questions:**

- How do you do with waiting? Do you think you're often patient? Frustrated? Stressed? Do you think we've become more or less okay with waiting in our society? How so?
- Who's someone in your life that is patient and un-phased by having to wait? What about them seems to give them peace in the midst of a line or traffic or a delayed flight? What do you notice about other parts of their lives?

## **Looking at Scripture:**

- Read **Isaiah 9:2-7...** How do you define hope? What's the difference between hoping and having hope, if there's one at all? When Judah was attacked by Assyria, were they hoping or having hope? What makes you think that?
- Why is it so important to see the hope we have in Jesus as personal? What words in this passage seem to indicate that this promise is indeed personal? Have you ever thought about the hope found in the Scriptures is for you? Why or why not?
- When someone makes you a promise, why is it important they have a "resume" of reliability? Why do we usually look at the "back then" as a qualification for trust later? Have you ever been forced to trust someone blindly? Without past experience?
- Imagine a kingdom led by a wonderful counselor, a mighty God, an everlasting Father, a prince of peace...what's a day in that kingdom like? How does the promise of that reality affect your current reality?
- How does the miracle of Christmas change your level of anticipation, confidence and excitement about Jesus coming again? Having both the past record and the future assurance, what does that mean for right now?

## **Application Questions:**

- This week's bottom line was **OUR HOPE IS BOTH THEN AND NOW**. What does your life look like if it was lived with this kind of confidence? Think practically. What about tomorrow? Your next vacation? What about your next meeting about that stressful project?
- As a group, share the past times God has come through for you. Encourage each other with His faithfulness. Then go back and read both **John 14:3** and **Matthew 28:20**. Are you more or less sure of those promises?

*End your time together praying for one another, asking God to help you live in the hope that you have right now. Ask him to help each of you not be stuck in the past or just waiting for the future, but living fully present in every moment because of your present hope. Ask him to help you live with anticipation and confidence every day.*