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TITLE Hate Waiting

SERIES Ask anyone what Christmas is about and they'll tell you it's about the coming of Jesus! That is true, but it's only part of the story. Would it surprise you to know that Christmas is really about waiting? It's about living in the "not yet" and waiting for the now. What are you waiting for?

As we begin the season of Advent, we heard that this is a season of waiting. "Waiting is living in the 'not yet,' hoping for the 'now'" - Pastor David Smith.

1. What is your personal testimony for waiting? Is waiting a strength or a weakness in your life? Share a time you experienced the completion of a time in waiting. What is the longest period of waiting you have known?
2. Read the story of God's promise to Abraham (**Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 16:1-5; 17:6-8; Gen 21:1-3**). In what ways did Abraham demonstrate a willingness to wait on God and in what ways did he demonstrate lack of patience? What were the results? Can you think of modern parallels? If you're willing, share stories from your own life.
3. Read **Luke 1:5-25**. Describe the key differences between waiting for something and counting on something. What were the key differences between Abraham and Sarah's waiting versus Zacharias and Elizabeth's waiting?
4. Consider these other Biblical examples of waiting. What lessons do they present about waiting on God? Do you see any recurring themes? (Joseph: **Gen. 37-41**; Job: **James 5:11**; Jesus: **Hebrews 12:2-3**)
5. We are all waiting for something. What are you waiting for? Has what you are waiting for become something you are counting on?
6. There are three principles to remember while waiting:
 - Don't let what you're waiting for be what you are counting on other than counting on God.
 - Waiting is used by God to save us from self-reliance.
 - God has a greater purpose in what we are waiting for.

Which of these principles do you need to remember to recalibrate your faith?

*God is greater than anything you are waiting for.
Trust He is in control, live faithfully, and wait on Him.*