

Advent – In the Waiting...Hope

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Isaiah 64:1-9

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Advent is all about intentional waiting – and how we wait with hope, peace, joy and love

*What is your experience with Advent? How do you plan to be intentional in this season?

God's people are a people of waiting

It's what we do in the waiting that matters.

*What makes waiting so frustrating for us? What makes waiting acceptable?

*What things are you waiting on right now?

Isaiah was waiting with HOPE

'Him, who acts on behalf of those who wait on Him.'

Read and discuss Isaiah 64:1-9(NIV)

64 *Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!*

² *As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!*

³ *For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.*

⁴ *Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.*

⁵ *You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.*

*But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.*

How then can we be saved?

⁶ *All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

⁷ *No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.*

⁸ *Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*

⁹ *Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.
Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.*

*What does this passage tell us about God? About people?

*What does this passage tell us about waiting and weariness, our condition, our HOPE?

*When have your words mirrored Isaiah's – would you just...?

We can let Advent lead us in focusing on the things that matter

While we wait, we are to love God, love others, and live life to the full

- *What helps us to remain faithful in the waiting, to trust him in the 'not yet's'?
- *How has 2020 affected you? What do you need to lament to move forward with hopeful waiting?
- *What is God saying to you about cultivating HOPE in this particular season?

Join us as we celebrate Advent together

[Advent Experience 2020](#)

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Hope](#) by Philip Galle

Song for reflection [Take Courage](#) by Bethel Music

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.