

Living Joy in “The Wait”

Week of December 17, 2017

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.



Message Recap:

Read Luke 2:21-40

How long has it been since you've just been still? Since you waited on God? Sometimes Joy is a long time coming. In the Bible, Simeon and Anna waited a long time for Jesus. Maybe you have waited a long time for Jesus. You can find joy in the between while you are anticipating the minute you see Jesus. In the wait you need to look for the Joy of Jesus with all you've got. The temptation will always be to turn away and end the wait; to find some other joy in some other person or some other thing. There is no other real joy in the world better or more real than the joy that Jesus brings. If we try to find joy in anything else we will be terribly disappointed. Joy is a Person and a path leading every day into the presence of "Immanuel" —the God who is with us in The Wait.

Pray

Father, sometimes I feel like I am spending so much time waiting. I want to find Joy in this wait. I want to see what you're doing and understand why the Joy of Jesus is so much better than anything I could ever find on my own. Fill me with your Living Joy, Jesus!

Getting Started

- When you were a kid, how did you spend your time while waiting for Christmas to arrive?
- As an adult have you ever had to wait for something you really wanted? What was that like?

Digging Deeper

1. What are some of the counterfeit joys Satan tempts you with?
2. Why do these things not give you lasting joy? What are the costs of these temporal joys?
3. How is Jesus Joy different than that of the world?
4. Read Luke 2:21-40. Have you heard this story before? How long had Simeon and Anna waited for the Messiah?
5. How did Simeon and Anna know that this baby brought to the temple was the promised one? How do you know Jesus is who He says he is?
6. These two spent a lot of time in worship, claiming nothing of worth except God's promise...is this a wasted life? Why or why not? What can you learn from the story of Anna and Simeon?
7. What does this statement mean? "Joy comes to everyone who stubbornly waits for Jesus!" What will you do with this knowledge?

Living Jesus

Jesus promises that he gives us his joy, and in him our joy is complete. He is always with us. To find joy as you wait—for his return, for his answers to your prayers, for his direction, for his presence—you need to lay down your "abandoned and discouraged" and start believing big. Repent of every false path you've taken to find counterfeit joy, and instead rely on the the Joy of the Lord to be your strength while you wait.

Your Story

How have you come to know Living Joy this month? How is your life or perspective changing because of this message? **Share your personal story with us [here](#) or choose Share Your Story under Forms at MySevernRun.com.**