

THE COMING KING



GROUP DISCUSSION | Week 1: HOPE

SERIES OVERVIEW

This 3-week series explores how Jesus's coming is a welcome invitation to everyone—the poor, unknown, rich, men, and women. To those who recognize him as he comes, he brings hope, peace, joy, and love. He is king.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Think of this discussion guide as a springboard. Use what's helpful to your group and lean into discussion that's sparked from the insight and input of your group.

CONNECTION

Christmas time is filled with expectation. Think back to when you were a child; describe what Christmas was like for you? What's one of the most memorable Christmases you had as a kid? What made it so?

What do you look forward to at Christmas time now? Any traditions you hold or would like to start?

We opened this series talking about hope. How would you differentiate hope from *want*, *wish*, and *optimism*?

TRUTH

Read Psalm 39:7. We talked about the different Hebrew words for hope; *Yakhal* and *Qavah*. Both mean "to wait," but *qavah* is more of that tension-filled-expectation type of waiting. When have you felt that sort of hope?

Read Isaiah 9:6. Which of those names for Jesus stand out to you? Why?

That's what the Israelites were waiting for. Rather...that's *who* they were waiting for. However, God is silent for 400-450 years until the announcement of John the Baptism and then, Jesus. What's the longest you've had to wait for something? Was it worth it?

We also talked about someone in the Christmas story well-versed in waiting; Simeon. Read Luke 2:25-32. What sticks out about this story and why?

Philip shared what Simeon knew: This baby was the Savior God had promised. Jesus was the Coming King humanity had been waiting for. What can we learn from Simeon?

APPLICATION

While waiting can be hard, as Christ followers, Jesus is our fulfillment of hope. Read Romans 15:13. What do you think it looks like to "abound in hope?"

We also shared that God's past faithfulness fuels our hope for the future. Think for a moment and then share a time where you know and saw God's faithfulness.

CLOSE AND PRAY

Let's collectively thank God for His faithfulness and humbly ask that He fuel our hope this Christmas season.