

**LIFEGROUP STUDY  
IN THE WAITING  
TRUSTING GOD IN THE WAITING  
DEC. 13, 2020**

**PARTICIPANT NOTES**

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." Romans 8:25

Welcome to week 2 of our 3-week series leading up to Christmas, "In the Waiting". Over these three weeks we are exploring the importance of waiting in our faith journey. In this week's study, Trusting God In The Waiting, we'll see how God uses liminal space (the space between what was and what's next) to grow our trust in Him. Today we will explore the stories of two bible characters, Zechariah and Mary. As your group reads their stories, ask God to show you how their experience can speak to waiting on Him. The goal of this week's study is you would cultivate trust and hope as a key response when God asks you to step into a season of waiting.

**ICEBREAKER: I Can't Wait!**

What are you excitedly looking forward to this Christmas? Maybe you can't wait for your loved one to open that perfect gift you chose. Maybe you can't wait for Christmas morning around the tree, or to watch your favourite Christmas movie again this year. Share with the group the first thing you think of that you "can't wait" for this Christmas.

**STUDY**

1. What was a highlight for you from Pete's teaching on Sunday?

2. Definition of Patience from Week 1.

"Patience is the ability to wait in discomfort without losing your peace."

- What does it mean to wait in *discomfort*?
- How can you know you are experiencing *peace* in the waiting?

3. In his teaching on Sunday, Pete talked about “liminal space”.
  - What is it like to be in a liminal space? Can you give an example?
  - Why is liminal space so important to cultivating our hope and trust in God?
  
4. READ: Luke 1:5-25
  - What liminal space did the angel ask Zechariah to live in?
  - Why do you think the angel wasn't pleased with Zechariah's response? (see vs. 18)
  - How do you relate to Zechariah's experience?
  
5. READ: Luke 1:26-38
  - What liminal space did the God ask Mary to live in?
  - Why do you think the angel's response to Mary was different than the response to Zechariah?
  - What does Mary's example teach us about the values of trust and hope in waiting?
  
6. What would you say to encourage someone who is struggling to live in a liminal space?
  
7. What is a key takeaway for you from this study?

## PRAYER

*Creekside supports the N Family as they serve in ethnomusicology and aircraft maintenance in Southeast Asia. Please PRAY for these requests from them:*

- Our return is based upon so many unknowns. Jason's visa, the kids visa, COVID tests that are less than 2 weeks old, letters from a Doctor saying we're healthy, and airplane tickets.
- If Jason does not have a visa before January, Erin will have to return alone to renew her visa. She must be in Sentani by January 13th. She also needs all the appropriate documentation and health clearances to do so.
- Erin will return Canada depending on Jason's visa. She will again need the appropriate medical (Covid) clearances to leave again. Also, she will need a place in Ontario to quarantine.
- In the past, getting airplane tickets has been very stressful, there are fewer flights, cancellations are rampant, and routing constantly in flux.