

SERIES SUMMARY

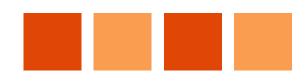
- Through Advent, the teaching in our large group gatherings is
- titled "Tidings of *Dis*comfort and Joy." It's a nod to the reality that
- joy is often found on the other side of our willingness to embrace
- discomfort & risk, as seen in the Christmas story itself!
- In our small group gatherings,
- we'll explore the other side of that coin: "Unless and until we rest in
- God, we will never risk for God" (Mark Buchanan).
- Together this Christmas, we'll see that peace and joy can be found in unexpected circumstances.

- ICEBREAKER
- Are you one of those Christmas Eve gift

Christ calls us to slow down.

- shoppers?
  - SCRIPTURE
- Read the prophetic word
- spoken by John the Baptist's father in
- Luke 1:67-79.





## **LEARNING FROM HIS STORY**

- 1. Zechariah echoed the voices of prophets and a people who'd been waiting for hundreds of years. What contributes to our own culture's inability to slow down and wait for things?
- 2. Jesus came "to guide our feet into the way of peace." Do you agree with the statement that the path to peace is never hurried?

## **EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY**

- 4. What is your body communicating to you about your current pace of life? What might be driving that pace?
- 5. Zechariah waited 9 months to regain his voice. Can you share about a season of waiting from your own life?
- 6. What does hurry tend to produce in you?

## **WRITING A NEW STORY**

- 7. What tends to drive our pace of life in the holiday season?
- 8. What are some simple practices (driving slower, putting the phone away, going to bed earlier) you could adopt to slow your body down?
- 9. Consider your kids/grandkids. Does anything need to be done to unhurry their lives?

## TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Father, be our shepherd, set our pace. Slow us down to see your goodness. Amen.

