

*Note: The online version of the Sermon Notes and Study Guide may be found at:
<https://notes.subsplash.com/fill-in/view?page=jrN-rQyvvK2>*

:: Summary

We do not like to wait. We much prefer action leading to results. Nevertheless, we wait – for inconsequential things and for that which is of great importance. We wait for earthly things and for spiritual ones as well. The theme of waiting is found throughout Scripture including the Christmas story. It is one of God's tools in the shaping of our lives and therefore every occasion of waiting is a sacred opportunity to experience God's nearness. The challenge to every disciple is to learn how to wait well.

:: Share

Short answer: What is one example of waiting that really annoys you? Longer answer: share one significant time of waiting and how it impacted you.

:: Explore and Discuss | Luke 1:26-38, 2:22-35

For Mary, her wait lasted all of Jesus' lifetime and then some. From the biblical account what in Mary's character and spiritual life enabled her to wait well? What were the challenges she faced in waiting?

What do you see in the witness of Simeon that encourages you in your waiting?

Zachariah, Joseph, and Mary have a huge advantage of encountering angelic messengers at the start of their times of waiting. Most of us do not have that experience. Nevertheless, what advantage do we have?

:: Apply it to Your Life

How are you waiting in these days? How is God speaking to you through this study about you're waiting?

For the encouragement of your group: In your times of waiting on the Lord, what is one thing that greatly helps you to wait well?

:: Pray

Heavenly Father, we praise you that you are a God who always works for our blessing and therefore we can trust you in our waiting. Help us to grow in waiting well, acknowledging you are near in every moment, depending on your goodness in every circumstance, being obedient to your guidance, and anchoring our lives in the certainty of your promises. Through all of our experiences of waiting, we also await your return in



glory, looking forward to that great Day when all things will be made new and our home will be with you. Until then, all honor and glory to you. Amen.

