

LONGING

AN ADVENT JOURNEY

GOING DEEPER AT HOME

DEC 4: JOY WHEN IT'S LEAST EXPECTED

Christmas is a season of joy. The anticipation of being with family, opening gifts and everything else of this season leads to so much joy. But sometimes waiting can be hard. The longer we have to wait the harder it is. The people of Israel ended up waiting 700 years for God to fulfill the promise of the Messiah. Elizabeth & Zechariah waited their entire lives for a child and now that they are too old for kids God comes along and reveals His perfect plan that includes them.

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 1:5 - 25

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS:

1. What is a favourite Christmas memory? Why does this bring you so much joy?
2. What is something from the message that stood out to you, was new or challenged you?
3. Respond to the statement "joy isn't found in what you have, but in knowing God hasn't forgotten you." Is this true or not?
4. What is the longest you've waited for a promise to be fulfilled? Describe what it was like for you to wait & when it was finally fulfilled.
5. Have you ever felt like God has given up on you? What keeps you from giving up on God while you wait? If you've given up on God, can you talk about why?
6. Read verse 18. Zechariah says they are too old, suggesting that it's too late for God to give them a child. What does this say about Zechariah's and our sense of how God should work?
7. Read verse 20. Why is it so important that Gabriel emphasizes the promise with "at the proper time?"
8. What are is something you are waiting on God to do or come through on? Where are you on the scale of giving up and waiting strong?
9. What step(s) is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take so that you remember that God is still at work?
10. What is something you can do this week to help bring joy into someone's life?