

Waiting For Hope



Part One: Positioning Yourself to Share Hope // Jeff Brodie // **December 6, 2020**

You've held out for hope this year. The hope of lifted restrictions, the hope of a healthy diagnosis, or just hope for some good news. You know what it means to wait for hope. Maybe you're still waiting. The accounts of Christmas are a picture of humanity holding out for hope. The hope of something more, something better. Together we'll learn what you do in the waiting and discover that there's more hope than you might think.

Scripture: [Isaiah 9:2 NLT](#), [Isaiah 9:6 NLT](#), [Matthew 5:14-16 NIV](#)

Bottom Line: The power of Christ is in his presence.

Getting Started:

1. Are you looking forward to Christmas this year? What makes you excited? What makes you anxious for the season?
2. Do you have any Christmas traditions that celebrate the birth of Jesus?

Jumping In:

3. Can you recall a time when you experienced the kind of darkness Jeff described in the woods on his school trip? What happened?
4. Jeff shared this: "Christmas recognizes that humanity faces sin, darkness, and the inability to rescue itself." Have you ever thought about the accounts of Christmas from this perspective before? If not, what were your first thoughts when he shared that?
5. Read [Isaiah 9:2](#). Jeff summarized this passage, noting Christ as a light for all humanity. Have you experienced that light in your life? If so, can you share more about what that light has meant to you?
6. If you're new to the idea Jeff shared about Christ being a light for humanity, what are your initial thoughts about this concept?
7. Read [Isaiah 9:6](#). From the list of promises about who the Messiah would be, which do you need most in this season and why? (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace)

8. Read [Matthew 5:14-16](#). Are you positioning yourself to bring the presence of Christ to someone during this dark time? If so, what does that look like? If not, what is holding you back?
9. If you already know who you are planning to invite to Christmas Eve, share with your group so they can be praying for your invitation in the coming weeks.

Moving Forward:

Let's take the next month of December and finish the year strong.

First, take time to pray about who you could invite to join you this year for Christmas Eve Together online. Then, think about how and when you will invite them.

Second, do your part to help us finish the year financially strong so we can set up our community partners and our church to both end 2020 and start 2021 well, bringing hope to even more people.