



## **Wait for the Light**

### **Josh Morris**

**Focus** The word “Advent” means arrival, and during the season of Advent we remember that we are waiting for Christ to arrive. Our society struggles with waiting for anything. Advent teaches us to wait and reminds us that in our darkest and longest night, Jesus comes to give us light and life.

**Fun** Would you rather go into the past and meet your ancestors or go into the future and meet your great-great grandchildren?

**Review** Key Scriptures: John 1:9–12; 2 Peter 3:10

#### **1. The Wait**

In this season, we celebrate the day Jesus first arrived and remember that we are waiting for Him to return again. Not only are we waiting for Christ’s second return, but we are also waiting to see Him in the present. We want His light to shine through the dark places in our lives. Light shows us the reality of what is in front of us, but in the dark our fears inform our perception. During Advent, we remember that Jesus is always drawing close to us. Advent teaches us to patiently wait in an impatient world just like the Israelites waited for their Savior to arrive.

#### **2. The Thief**

When we think of thieves, it is always negative; however, 1 Thessalonians 5:2 shares that the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly—just like a thief in the night. During Advent, we reflect on Jesus’ arrival on the longest, darkest night of the year. In the same way, He comes in our darkest moments to bring us life and light.

### 3. The Gift

This Christmas season, ask God what He wants to steal from you. Does He want to steal pride, lust, greed, or flawed thoughts on who He is or how He can move in your life? Are you willing to let God remove something from the tight grip of your hands so you can receive something even better? Ask God to steal anything that is keeping you from knowing Him and receiving the priceless gift of His love.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** As we begin the new year, discuss the vision for the spring with your group. What changes, if any, can be made to meet the group's needs?

#### Discuss

1. Is it hard for you to wait for things? What is the hardest thing you've ever had to wait for?
2. Why do you think God wants us to be good at waiting? How does God use the waiting time to help us grow?
3. Read Revelation 16:15, Matthew 24:43, and 1 Thessalonians 5:4. How was the birth of Jesus like the coming of a thief when He came as a baby? How will His second coming also be like a thief?
4. What are some ways God has worked unexpectedly in your life? Why do you think God often works in ways we don't expect?
5. We celebrate the birth of Jesus at the time of year when nights are the longest. How has Jesus shown up during the darkest seasons of your life? What was it like waiting for Him? What was it like when He showed up in your life?
6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message? Is there something in your life your life God needs to steal (pride, lust, greed, doubt, fear, etc.)?
7. Is there an area of your life where you need to open up and receive the fullness of who Jesus is?

#### Take Home

As we conclude, remember:

- Jesus asks us to wait.
- Jesus is our light.

- Jesus will come as a thief.

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us give You anything in our lives that keeps us from freely receiving Your love. This year we choose to walk in Your light. Give us the grace we need to lay our sins down at the cross so we can receive the gift of Jesus and the gift of redemption. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Intentionally connect with group members outside of group. Consider meeting with them for coffee or lunch to catch up and see how they're doing.