

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*Luke 1:5-25*

These questions are for the **December 15, 2024** message, **“Waiting for Christmas, A Series for Advent: When We Doubt.”** Please read the sermon passage together to set the context for our study.

### Passage Outline

**We learn to wait for God’s perfect timing...**

1. ...when the silence continues. (5-6)
  - A. Zechariah is a priest who has a favored standing by birth, marriage, and by faith
  - B. Zechariah and Elizabeth were both righteous before God
2. ...when the disappointment is real. (7)
  - A. Despite having favor before God, they had no children
  - B. Elizabeth was barren, and both she and Zechariah were old
3. ...when the discipline is deserved. (8-25)
  - A. Zechariah received good news from the angel, who promised them a son
  - B. He did not believe the angel’s message, and as a result was silenced for a time
  - C. The discipline led to growth and blessing

**Help for waiting believers this Christmas:**

- Carefully treasure what God has said. (Zechariah’s life)
- Pray fervently regarding what you lack. (13)
- Let God’s discipline prepare you to praise Him. (22,25)

Pastor Jon said that if you hold the promise in your hand, you don’t need faith. It’s in the days of waiting, when you’re living between the already and the not yet, that’s when you need faith to persist.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. According to Luke 1:5-6, Zechariah was said to be righteous, walking blamelessly before God, and yet he doubted God’s promise to give him a son. How might we explain that disconnect between obedience and belief?
2. It’s been said that “the source of all disappointment in the world is unmet expectations.” In light of this, how might we develop disappointment with God?
3. How do we wait faithfully when disappointment is real? What does it mean to seek the Lord in our waiting? What should we ask Him for when we are experiencing disappointment?
4. Think about a time when you were tempted to doubt God’s love and/or faithfulness. How might you put Pastor Jon’s “Help for Waiting Believers” steps into practice?
  - How can you “carefully treasure what God has said?”
  - How can you “pray fervently regarding what you lack?”
  - How can you “let God’s discipline prepare you to praise Him?”