

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Silver Linings

**Week 2: While We Wait**  
**Luke 1:5-18**

**Week of December 5, 2021**  
**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

Though we often hope for a Christmas season that's always merry and bright, our reality is often stressful and gloomy. God has a surprising way of infusing a silver lining into all our cloudy days. This week as we looking at the life of Zechariah, we discover the unexpected joys hidden in our times of waiting on the Lord.

### Kicking it off:

Jeff brought up several examples of tools that help produce wait times ... which one (or two) from this list tends to frustrate you the most? And why?

- Waiting Lines in Public Transportation
- Construction Zone Cones
- Railroad Crossing Signs
- Computers
- Restaurant Pagers
- Company Phone Hold Music
- Doctor's Waiting Rooms

### Discussion:

1. In light of 1 Corinthians 1:7, as you think about the Christian life as a waiting game, how do you feel about waiting? On a scale of 1 to 10, how "eagerly" do you wait for Jesus to come back?

*"Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ." (NLT)*

2. Read Luke 1:13 and 1:18. Have you ever had a long-time prayer answered? How did you respond? If so, share the story of what happened with your group.

*"But the angel said, 'Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.'" (NIV)*

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*"Zechariah said to the angel, 'How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.'" (NIV)*

3. How do the words of the Old Testament prophet Malachi (4:6) confirm what the angel told Zechariah? (Luke 1:17) Why does it matter that this advent was predicted over 400 years before John the Baptist and Jesus were born?

*"His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse." (INV)*

4. Think about the picture of the little boy in the rubble in London, months before The Allies declared victory in Europe for V-E Day. How does a knowledge that Christ *will* return — and God wins in the end — affect your day-to-day courage and hope for the future?

### Wrapping It Up:

Waiting on God is seldom easy, but we wait in the knowledge that God knows our situation, He cares for our needs, and He's faithful to the end. Ask God to help you while you wait on Him.