

# CHRISTMAS

## IN THE WAITING

### STUDY NOTES

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### A Call for Faith

1 What about waiting for Christmas is exciting and challenging for you?

2 Why do you think time seems to move slower when we are waiting? How can waiting on God, or for something we want, whittle away on our faith?

3 Read Jeremiah 23:5-6 and Haggai 2:3, 9. What promises are made that the nation of Israel was waiting for?

4 As you think of the Christmas Story, how did Jesus fulfill these promises even after the nation had waited hundreds of years?

5 Read Hebrews 11:1. In your own words and in discussion describe the difference between blind faith and the faith spoken of here?

6 Why would remembering be so important as we consider holding onto our faith in Jesus in the middle of waiting? How have you experienced this?

7 Read Hebrews 11:6. Why do you think God prizes faith so much? Have you placed your faith in him? Tell that story? What rewards might there be for those who seek him?

8 What waiting are you needing to do right now and it's been really hard on your faith, but God is calling you to trust? How might Christmas this year encourage you as you look back to look forward and grow in your faith?

9 Pray together.

## Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

## Hebrews 11:1-2

## By Faith

1Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2For by it the people of old received their commendation.

**6**And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

**13** These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

**39**And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, **40**since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

[illegible]