



God With Us

Part 2: Hope in the Waiting



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

The series ***“God With Us”*** reminds us of one of the most powerful truths of the Christian faith: God is not distant, watching from afar. He draws near, dwells among us, and walks with us even in the most uncertain moments. At the heart of this series is the name ***Emmanuel***, which means God with us—a promise fulfilled in Jesus.

The theme of this sermon, ***“Hope in the Waiting,”*** invites us to look at seasons of waiting—those moments when nothing seems to be moving forward—from a new perspective. The arrival of Jesus into the world shows us that even when it seems like God is delaying, He is never late. If Emmanuel has already come, then waiting is not empty; it is filled with hope, purpose, and promises that are being fulfilled, even if we cannot fully see them yet.

Before moving into the questions, let’s take a moment to read the main passage and reflect on what it means for our lives today.

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

Galatians 4:4–5 (NLT)



TALK ABOUT IT

1. What stands out to you most about the phrase “when the right time came”? What does this teach us about God’s timing?

2. How does knowing that God acts with intention and purpose—not randomly—change the way we view seasons of waiting?
3. The prophet Isaiah expresses this truth about how God works: *Isaiah 64:4 (NLT): “For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!”* What connection do you see between this verse and the idea of waiting with hope?
4. In what area of your life are you currently waiting on God? How does this passage encourage you to trust Him while you wait?

Because Emmanuel — God with us — has already come... you can have hope even in the waiting.



MAKE IT PRACTICAL

- **Give your past to Jesus:** Set aside a specific moment during the week to pray and release to Him what still weighs on you from yesterday. Ask Him for grace and a fresh beginning.
- **Walk with Jesus in your “today”:** During an ordinary moment of your day, intentionally invite Jesus to walk with you and learn to depend on His strength.
- **Act in faith toward your tomorrow:** Take one concrete step that reflects your trust in God’s promises, even as you continue to wait.



PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, thank You because You have already come and fulfilled the Father’s promise. Thank You for not leaving us alone in the waiting. Today we place our doubts, fears, and weariness before You. Help us trust Your timing, rest in Your presence, and live with hope as we wait. Heal our past, sustain our present, and secure our future in You. Amen.”



TIPS

- Pursue a life of community—waiting is easier when we don’t face it alone.
- Don’t pressure yourself to have all the answers. Sometimes trusting matters more than understanding.
- **Carry this truth with you during this Christmas season:** if God already fulfilled His promise by sending Jesus, He will also fulfill what you are waiting for today.



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