



## GRAB GATHER GROW

A simple study you can just grab, gather a group of people—either family, friends, co-workers, folks from the gym ... and grow your faith. During Advent add an Advent Wreath. This week light one of the four candles.

### OUR THEME THIS WEEK

Waiting for Christmas

### OUR THEME VERSE

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.” Romans 8:22

### OPENING CONVERSATION

Form into pairs and discuss together a time when you were in the audience awaiting the beginning of a performance. What do you remember feeling? What was happening around you?

Read together our Scriptural Foundation for this week:  
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 1:30-33; Luke 2:41-52

### OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, as we prepare for the coming of your Son, Jesus, at Christmas, quiet us down. By your Spirit, open our hearts, our minds, and our wills to what you would reveal to us through your story as it is told in Scripture and in the story of The Nutcracker. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(pick one or more depending on time available)

Anticipation and curiosity go hand in hand. Would you agree? When have you experienced anticipation before an event or an evolving situation? Were you curious about the outcome? Are you curious and anticipating the outcome of Advent this year? Review Jeremiah 33:14-16 again. What is Jeremiah anticipating?

Luke 2:41-52 is about Jesus' "In-Between" time. It seems we spend most of our lives "In-Between" times. What Spiritual Practices do you have that are helpful during these times?

What are some of the traditions you most look forward to each year? Do you greet the days of preparation with eager anticipation, or with some other emotions? Why? How do you feel about Christmas Eve?

In the Nutcracker, Clara receives a special gift. Do you know what it is and who gave it to her? What happens in your life when you experience unmet expectations or something goes wrong? What role does your faith play in these experiences. Do you believe that sometimes when things go wrong we even discover a new, more helpful perspective?

## SERVICE

(pick one of two of the following service events and act)

We often do not see how our Christmas decorations help us reach out and tell the story of Christmas. How could your gathering help tell the Christmas Story through your lights and other decorations. Could you all help each other decorate in such a way that tells the Story of Christmas?

Our Change for Change this and the next two weeks is giving to Heifer Project International. This Change for Change is sponsored by our Children's Ministry. Go online and check out this wonderful ministry. Consider donating to Heifer Project and purchasing one of their ornaments at Church.

BUMC is collecting Warm Things this December. Collect any warm things you would like to donate or purchase and bring them to the fellowship hall. We are collecting for men, women, children and youth so all sizes of warm things are needed. We're also in need of any size propane tanks (they will be used at the Homeless Camp on Hiawatha in Minneapolis).

Join us this Wednesday, the 5th, for encounter Christmas. We are going to gather at 6 for some talk and then at 6:30 have some fellowship time as we watch a version of the Nutcracker together. It would be a great time to bring in some Warm Things.

## Home Huddle Texts for the Week

Share  
(highs and lows of the day)

Read  
(a piece of scripture)

Talk  
(about how the scripture interacts with your highs and lows)

Pray  
(make sure to include your highs and lows)

Bless

Sunday: Romans 8:22  
Monday: Jeremiah 33:14  
Tuesday: Luke 1:30  
Wednesday: Luke 1:31-33  
Thursday: Luke 2:41-42  
Friday: Luke 2:51-52  
Saturday: Psalm 27:1

Blessing:  
With anticipation open  
yourself to new insights.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

