

ALREADY / NOT YET

WEEK 1

Growth Group Opener:

How do you deal with waiting? Are you patient or impatient?

Demanding or peaceful? Trying to get out of waiting, as quickly as possible?

What does waiting look like for you?

Advent. We hear this word a lot during the Christmas season, but what does it really mean? It is translated from the Greek word adventus, and means an arrival, or a coming. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, born as a human, like us. However, if the light has already come, how do we explain the darkness that still exists in the world? What is still to come, what has not yet arrived? What are we still waiting for?

As believers, we are waiting in the tension of what we call the already/not yet. Yes, Jesus has already come. Yes, he has given himself up as a sacrifice to save those who believe. However, we are in the space of waiting for Him to come again, for the final time, to make all things new.

Read: Psalm 33:20-22

If you look at your actions, your finances, your thoughts, your habits, where does it appear that your hope truly lies?

How would putting your hope fully in the Lord shift those actions, finances, thoughts, habits?

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Read: Hebrews 11:1; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 8:18-25

What is the relationship between faith and hope? How are they similar/different?

How do your faith and hope shape how you view the hard things in life?
How do faith and hope change the way you walk through those hard seasons?

According to these passages, what is in the already category?

According to these passage, what belongs in the not yet category?

How can these Scriptures bring us comfort when it feels like darkness is winning in the world?

Where do you see slivers of light in the darkness, where God's Kingdom is noticeable on earth?

What can you do in your life to be part of that light and a bringer of hope to those around you?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the hope you have given us through Jesus. Thank you for your presence with us, as we wait in the tension between what you've already accomplished and the time when Jesus will return to make all things new in the end. Help us to walk differently in the world, as we keep our eyes on you, focused on where we see you working in the darkness of the world. Lord, use us to help the light the path to you as we walk hand in hand with Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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