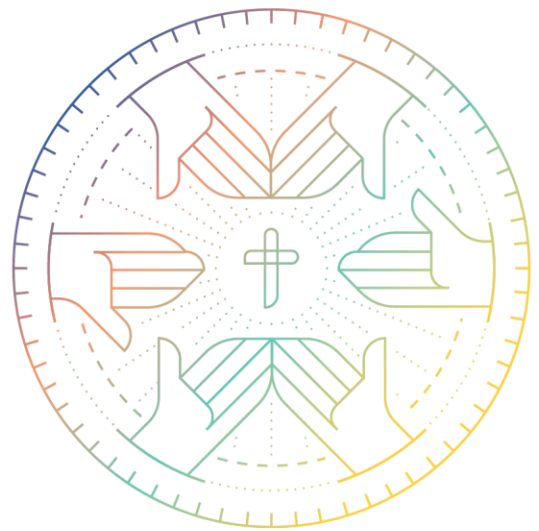


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What is the most unexpected gift or surprise you've ever received, and how did it impact you?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Advent is a season of waiting, longing, and preparation as we reflect on the birth of Jesus and anticipate His return. In Luke 1, God breaks a 400-year silence with an extraordinary announcement to Zechariah, setting the stage for the arrival of the Messiah. The story challenges us to trust in God's timing and faithfulness, even in seasons of waiting.

Have you ever experienced a "silent season" in your life? How did you see (or are you still hoping to see) God's faithfulness during that time?

INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

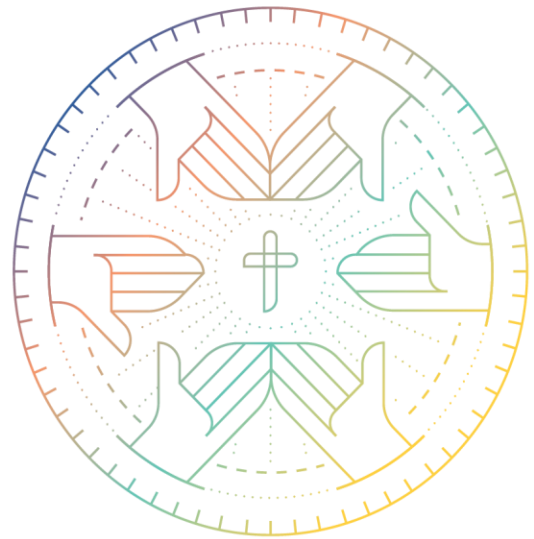
Read Genesis 18:10-14. What similarities do you see between Sarah and Elizabeth's stories and how do they point to the truth that "nothing is impossible with God"?

Read Psalm 40:1-3. What does this passage teach us about waiting on God? What can we do to cultivate patience in seasons of waiting?

Romans 8:24-28. How does this passage encourage us to hold on to hope, especially when God's plan seems unclear or delayed? How can trusting in God's sovereignty help us see trials through a redemptive lens?

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APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

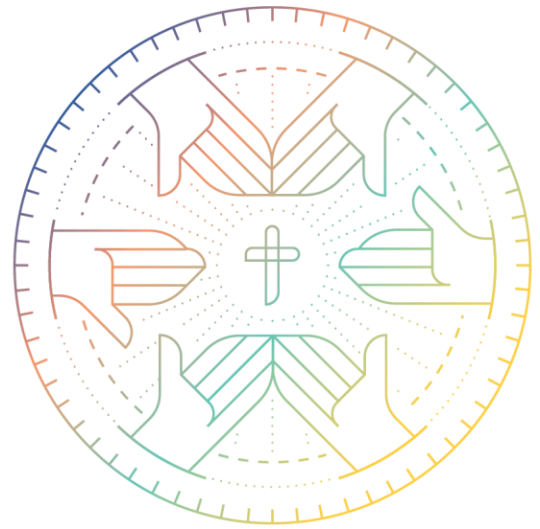
- 1. Obedience matters.**
How can you demonstrate faithfulness to God in your current circumstances, like Zechariah and Elizabeth did?
- 2. God is near to you.**
Have you experienced a season of waiting or silence in your life? How can you remind yourself that God is still near, even in those seasons?
- 3. God hears our prayers.**
What prayers have you been waiting for God to answer? How can you trust that God sees and hears you, even in the waiting?
- 4. Nothing is impossible with God.**
Is there something in your life that seems impossible right now? How can you surrender that to God and trust in His power to do the impossible?
- 5. Your beginning doesn't determine your ending.**
How can you be encouraged by Zechariah's journey from doubt to praise? How can you find hope in your current circumstances, knowing that God can bring transformation?

SEEKING GOD DAILY:

1. Memorize and draw comfort from Psalm 56:8. "You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?"
2. Set aside time each day to bring your prayers of longing and waiting before God. Trust that He hears you and is at work even in silence.
3. Write down one thing you're thankful for each day during Advent. Reflect on God's goodness in your life and thank Him.
4. This week, intentionally obey God in one area where you've been hesitant. Trust that this will bring clarity and move you closer to His plan for you.
5. Reach out to someone you know who might be struggling with waiting or feeling distant from God. Remind them of His faithfulness and that He is near.

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PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Heavenly Father, Thank You for the reminder that You are always at work, even in the silent seasons of our lives. Help us trust in Your perfect timing and believe in Your promises, knowing that nothing is impossible for You. As we journey through this Advent season, prepare our hearts to embrace the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings. May we live with faith and anticipation, ready to be used by You to bring light into the lives of others. In Jesus' name, Amen.