



Going Deeper Questions  
"No Word of God Will Fail"  
Ethan May - 11/27/2022

**Sermon Scripture Passage**

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-38

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**Fun icebreaker question**

What's a fun Christmas time tradition you have with your family or friends?

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**Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret**

Last week, Pastor Brent described what a "gratitude journal" was and encouraged us to try keeping one. Did anyone deliberately take time to list out what you were grateful for last week, either in a physical journal or in some other way?

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**Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?**

Looking back at your notes from this week's passage and sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

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**My Story**

1) Pastor Ethan talked about how the Advent season is a season of waiting, and how the Israelites had "eagerly, anxiously, desperately waited" for a savior. Have you ever eagerly, anxiously, desperately waited for something? How did/does that feel?

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2) Waiting is hard. Sometimes, when we're waiting for God and it's hard to believe that his word never fails, we can have hope by looking at what God has done or is doing - not only for us, but for those around us too. Have you ever experienced something like this, where you've relied on others to help point us towards Christ in a season of waiting? What did that look like?

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### **Dive Deeper**

3) Take a moment and read Psalm 13 (which is only 6 verses). What stands out to you about this psalm?

4) How does Psalm 13 relate to Mary's story in our passage this week and to the story of the Israelites? Are there any similarities that stand out to you?

5) In the midst of waiting, what hope do we find in Jesus?

Let's re-read Luke 1:26-38 one more time.

- Faith: What is this passage asking me to believe about God or myself?

- Hope: What hope does this passage offer us as God's people?

- Love: What is this passage asking us to do? How do we put these words into action in our lives?

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### **Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively**

This week, take some time to intentionally and prayerfully think about the things that you might be waiting for; think about how hard it is to wait for them. And then think of ways that God has proved that his word will never fail, that he is Immanuel - God with us. Maybe that's through experiences in your own life, or maybe that's through the experiences of others. Pray that God will remind you, every day, that he is Immanuel - that he is with you.

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### **A special question for couples and families**

A few years ago, I (Pastor Ethan) heard a parent of young kids say, "If Advent is a season of waiting, then I don't know how to experience it. Because life is so busy and hectic that I feel like I don't even have time to breathe, let alone wait." In the midst of a busy, often chaotic season, what would it look like for you - you, your spouse, your kids - to take time and wait? To create a rhythm

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of slowing down, pausing, and looking towards what God might be leading you towards in the future, or what God is promising you (just like he promised that Immanuel would come)?

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