

# STUDY GUIDE



## TIS THE SEASON 12.10.2017

### [set up]

Christmas is upon us. What is your favorite part of Christmas? What is your least favorite?

Could you share a comical story where either you lost your patience, or you saw someone lose their patience?

What is the longest you have ever had to wait for something?

This week Pastor Josh talked about patience. He said that patience is having “a humble heart toward the timing of God and toward others.” This requires long-range patience for the circumstances of life and short-range patience for people in our day to day. Rate yourself on both long-range and short-range patience on a 1-10 scale (10 being Jesus-style patient).

Why do you think patience is so hard?

### [digging deeper]

**Read Luke 2:25-33.** In the story we have Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and Simeon. Mary and Joseph were godly parents and obeyed the Law of God and made the necessary expense to travel to the temple in Jerusalem. They brought two young pigeons to offer. In the Old Testament people who could afford a lamb were to bring a lamb for sacrifice, but the poor could just bring a couple pigeons. That means Jesus grew up in a working-class home with godly parents, so Mary and Joseph could not provide their children with everything they would want. If you are a parent or grandparent, what encouragement can we receive knowing that God the Father chose to put his Son into a working-class home?

Simeon was “waiting for the consolation of Israel,” the coming of Messiah. The word here in the original language is *paraklēsīn*, translated comfort or encouragement. This is the same root word Jesus used to refer to the Holy Spirit in John 14:16. Jesus is called Comfort, the Holy Spirit is called Comfort, and we are called to comfort. What is the relationship between these three persons (Jesus, The Holy Spirit, and you)?

The Messiah was promised all throughout the Bible. **Read Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 40:1-5, Deuteronomy 18:15-19, 2 Samuel 7:12-16, Malachi 4:5-6.** These are all prophecies of the coming Messiah.

The Messiah, Jesus, has promised to come again. But it has been quite some time since Jesus ascended to heaven. **Read 2 Peter 3:8-9.** What comfort can we have now in the future coming of Jesus?

## **[living it out]**

Pastor Josh encouraged us to pray these two prayers when we feel impatience coming:

- “Father, help me trust you like your beloved child.”
- “Father, help me see the value of \_\_\_\_.”

Have you prayed these prayers this week? Have they helped you tap into the river of God’s patience? Why or why not?

Christmastime is one of the hardest times of the year to have patience, but it’s the time that we need patience the most! Can you share with the group one person or one situation where you need more patience? Then, pray for each other that they will have patience with that person or that circumstance.