

RECAP

How did you notice and experience Jesus as the bread of life this week?

IDEA 1

Rob opened his sermon by sharing about his struggle with the idol of efficiency and his struggle to wait.

"Advent is a Holy Spirit convicting slap in my face for my hurried lifestyle, for my impatience, for the idol that efficiency is in my life. Advent screams, wait, breathe, slow down, take in your surrounding, anticipate, wonder, hope. Advent conditions us to wait well."

Where do you see the idol of efficiency expressed in your life?

Why do you think we struggle to wait?

In what ways does Advent encourage and condition us to slow down and wait well?

IDEA 2

Rob's repeated this phrase throughout his sermon - *"Though He may take his time, God always keeps His word"*

What ways have you waited on the Lord? And where have you seen God keep His word to you?

Read Luke 2:25-33 together. Rob also used the example of Simeon to highlight what it looks like to wait well.

- We behold our God who keeps His every promise
- We believe that He is coming again
- Our behavior considers the now and the not yet

As you read through this list, where do you sense Holy Spirit drawing your attention?

What seems to resonate or convict or raise a question in you?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Many of us are in the waiting room.

Take time to think about and share things you are actively waiting for. Here are some examples:

When will that healing finally come?

When will reconciliation happen and peace return to my family?

When will I experience Holy Spirit the way others seem to have?

When will I meet “the one”?

When will that prodigal child return?

Pray together - prayers of confession for ways that you've been impatient with God, for ways that you've tried to control things rather than trust.

Pray together - prayers of release, releasing anxiety and worry, releasing control and impatience.

Pray together - prayers of hope and trust as you actively wait on God.

APPLICATION

The formation that happens in the waiting room is often more important than what we're waiting for.

"Father God is more concerned with what we are becoming than what we are wanting, and thus, in his love asks us to wait"

Discuss and plan as a group:

What does it look like for you to wait well this week? To lean into Father God's formational work in you as you wait?

Consider Rob's handles - be watchman of God's presence in the here and now and not yet. Also, remain steadfast by being loyal - staying at church and being consistent with the spiritual disciplines.