

December 5, 2021

## **1. Waiting with Elizabeth and Zechariah —** **Luke 1:-25, 57-58 NRSV**

Waiting is such a hard thing to do. I remember being a kid and waiting for Christmas morning. I would go to bed as early as I could so that Christmas morning would happen much sooner. I'm sure my parents were thrilled when my younger brother and I would wake them up at 6 a.m. to open presents.

As I have grown older, waiting is still tough. My wife and I are currently waiting for our first child to be born. I am experiencing many emotions during this period of waiting. Feelings of excitement, anticipation, joy, and fear are all present. One thing I have become aware of, however, is that this time during my wife's pregnancy is anything but stagnant. There is a lot to prepare for and so much to do. In many ways, this is one of the busiest seasons of my life. Like Elizabeth and Zechariah, our lives are filled with seasons of waiting. Right now, we are collectively waiting. We are all waiting for COVID to be done, even as new variants continue to emerge. We are all waiting for our justice systems to consistently hold perpetrators of violence accountable, like in the trial for the murder of Ahmaud Arbery. No matter who you are, we are all waiting for something. Some of us wait with joy and excitement while others wait with fear and hopelessness.

When God calls us into a time of waiting, we can still be moving. We can prepare for God to do something amazing. Just as Elizabeth and Zechariah prepared for their newborn, we too can be active in our waiting. While we wait for justice, we can be advocates. While we wait for COVID to end, we can still be proactive in supporting people through this time.

I encourage you to write down what you are waiting for in this season. Then ponder:

- How is God calling you to wait?
- What emotions arise for you during this season of waiting?
- How can you be active during this period of waiting?

—Jerrell Williams

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## **Resources for this session**

Looking for participant guide page numbers in the leader guide? The page numbers in the leader guide work for both guides.

### ***Salt & Light Videos***

Owen Burkholder is the presenter for unit 1, Participating with God by Waiting. These teaching videos are great for leader preparation or introducing each weekly session. The videos are free and available on [\*\*MennoMedia's YouTube channel.\*\*](#)