



WEEK 3 | DEVOTIONAL ENGAGING THE PRESENT MOMENT

RECEIVE

Slowly. Prayerfully, read out loud **Luke 2:1–15**. Before and after the reading, pause for a moment—wait. In the silence, prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scripture. Consider, how does God want you to respond in light of this passage?

REFLECT

1. What is one of your favorite Christmas traditions? Why?
2. How does the story of Jesus' birth, particularly the humble setting of the manger scene (**Luke 2:7**), reveal God's closeness to us in the ordinary moments of life?
3. Joseph and Mary faced significant challenges in the present moment—traveling for the census and preparing for the birth of Jesus. How can their example inspire us to stay faithful in the mundane moments or even in uncertain or inconvenient times?
4. In what ways do the shepherds' response (**Luke 2:15**) reflect a model of active participation in God's work? How can we imitate their willingness to act on God's Word immediately?
5. If you view waiting as "active" rather than "passive", how does that change your perspective on challenging seasons in life? Compare and contrast how it looks to actively wait in faith and passively wait during challenging sessions?
6. What is one aspect of the Christmas story that you want to remember and be more mindful of throughout the full year?

7. The true meaning of Christmas can easily be buried in the lights, festivities, presents, and gatherings. How can we enjoy all that this time of year brings and still engage and be present with Jesus as well as offer Jesus to others?

RESPOND

As you heard, waiting for Christ's return is not passive. Think through the flow of your week—home, work, church, hobbies, what are ways we can "actively wait" by taking faithful steps in our daily lives. Think of acts of service, sharing kindness, or offering encouragement—be as specific as possible then do it and see what God does.

RESOURCE

What areas of your life need more active faithfulness? Join us for the new class we have coming up on January 26, Spiritual Health Check. This one-session class is a great way to start a new year and also be more active in your faithfulness.