

Hope Arrives

-2025-

CHRISTMAS AT B4CHURCH

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOPE IN THE WAITING

SPEAKER: Andy Sloan

DATE: December 15, 2025

TEXT(S): Romans 8:18–25 (supplemental)

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.*

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking but a resilient, active posture of waiting with God. Yakhai teaches us to wait patiently and expectantly, trusting God's character and faithfulness over time. Gavah deepens that image—hope as being tethered to God like a rope, drawing renewed strength while we wait. In the New Testament, the Greek word *elpis* names this confident expectation of God's future breaking into the present. Christian hope lives in the tension of the “now and not yet,” holding onto light in darkness and trusting God while the story is still unfolding.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What's something you've had to wait a long time for in your life?
2. Do you consider yourself a patient person? Why or why not?
3. When you hear the word “hope,” what's the first image or feeling that comes to mind?
4. Who is someone you admire for their perseverance or endurance?
5. What's harder for you, waiting or trusting while you wait?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) above. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. According to Romans 8:18-25, why is waiting an essential part of Christian hope?
2. How does Paul describe the relationship between suffering and future glory?
3. What does it mean to hope for what we do not yet see?
4. How does this passage reshape the way we view frustration or delay?
5. Where do you see your own story reflected in Paul's vision of hopeful waiting?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does our culture usually define “hope,” and how is that different from biblical hope?

2. Where do people today tend to place their hope when life feels uncertain?
3. How does instant gratification shape our ability to wait well?
4. In what ways does biblical hope challenge cultural pessimism or cynicism?
5. How might tethering ourselves to God (*gavah*) look different from self-reliance?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. What are you currently waiting for in this season of life?
2. Where do you sense God inviting you to practice *yakhal*: patient, expectant waiting?
3. What would it look like for you to be more intentionally “tethered” to God while you wait?
4. Where do you feel the tension between the “now” and the “not yet” most deeply?
5. What has God’s past faithfulness taught you about trusting Him with your future?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. What one thing in your life right now can you patiently consign to waiting, and what do you need from God to do so? Share this with a trusted friend and pray about it together
2. Do a 1/2 -day retreat where you submit the things you're anxiously desiring to God, one at a time and by name. Keep a journal about the experience and record the things you think, feel, know, and hear from God.

You can find [B4's Daily Advent Devotional here](#).

