

Getting Started

Talk about your memories of Christmases past, especially in childhood. What was the anticipation like? What parts of it made it stop in awe? What caused you joy?

Into the Bible

Read Isaiah 60:1-7. What was Israel expecting from God?

By Jesus' day, what had they gotten?

According to Romans 8:18-21 and 1 Peter 1:13, what are we waiting for?

How does Luke 10:24 suggest our waiting is different than Israel's waiting?

What kind of feelings does Luke 2:4-6 invoke in you?

What changes when we are reminded that that baby is actually the Son of God from eternity?

A favorite poem of mine is called *The Oxen* by Thomas Hardy. I'd invite you to look it up online. It speaks of the longing to regain the wonder of belief. What about your faith, if anything, fills you with a sense of wonder?

Luke 2:17-18, 20 describe the shepherds' reactions to seeing the baby Jesus. Why would seeing a baby cause them such joy?

Digging Deeper

In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy's wonder was squashed by seeing the man behind the curtain. Do you ever feel that way about Christmas, like, as an adult you are too busy getting ready that you'd lost the sense of wonder? How can you get it back?

One of my struggles with Christmas music is that there's only so much of it and after several weeks of it, I'm kind of tired of it. The joy wears off. Do you ever feel like your Christmas joy wears off? What causes that? How can you get it back?