



# A Season of Expectant Waiting

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## DAY 2

Monday, December 3  
(Candle of Hope)

### JOHN 1:9

*“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.”*

Waiting. In our daily lives, we endure many different kinds of waiting. We wait on hold, in lines, in traffic; we wait for rides, results, estimates, calls, letters, responses, vacations, changes and arrivals. Waiting can be difficult and trying, particularly if we don't know when the wait will end. Advent is a season of waiting, but the “wait” of advent is different.

Recently, my high school freshmen were slightly confused about the meaning and usage of their vocabulary word ‘advent.’ They had good reason to be confused, because the first definition their book gives is slightly misleading. The book simply defines advent as “an arrival.” However, I asked my students to look at the book’s second definition in order to fully understand the connotation of the word. The second definition defines ‘advent’ as “a coming into view.” I like this second definition better, not only as an English teacher, but also as a Christian. This definition helps us to understand all the meaning that the season of advent implies. Advent is not just an arrival; it is also a process, a wait or a “coming into view.”

From the start of the season to the end, Christians understand that although we must wait, we wait expectantly because there is a fulfillment of a promise in sight. A perfect model of this “coming into view” waiting is in the Old Testament Israelites’ prayers for their New

Testament Messiah. Although the process, the season of waiting, was lengthy, God faithfully fulfilled His promise in the birth of Christ the Savior. The same model is true for us as we celebrate advent this season. We count the days until December 25th with great excitement, knowing that our Christmas day will come. Although we wait, we wait expectantly and excitedly because we know that Christ has come and is the Savior. The birth of Christ is the long-expected arrival and the hopeful “coming into view” that differentiates Christian life from hopelessness. In whatever circumstances you encounter throughout this season of advent and this new year, wait not impatiently, but wait expectantly, knowing that our Hope has “come into view.”



#### RESPOND:

**DO:** You will probably find yourself waiting in a lot of lines this month. Determine how you will use this time in a way that radiates the peace of Christ.

**PRAY:** That Christ would “come into view” in the midst of all of life’s circumstances—even the seemingly hopeless ones—and that He would find us waiting expectantly.