

MESSAGE NOTES

ANTICIPATION

JOY IN THE WAITING

Roger Ellis
Lead Pastor
Luke 1, p. 714
Matthew 1 & 2, p. 675

ANTICIPATION REQUIRES SURRENDER

How Mary and Joseph must have anticipated the birth of the Christ. They were right in the middle of it! Their sense of anticipation must have been incredible. The anticipation required something from them.

Anticipation requires surrender:

- To God's choice (Luke 1:26-30 & Matthew 1:19)
- To God's plan (Luke 1:31-37 & Matthew 1:18-20)
- To God's care (Luke 1:39-45; 2:35 & Matthew 1:19)
- To God's Son (Luke 1:31-35, 47 & Matthew 1:21-23)

the one thing:

Christmas is empty without surrender.

Miss something? All of these sermon notes will be available online Monday.

TAKING IT HOME NOTES FOR SMALL GROUP & PERSONAL STUDY

- KEEPING IT REAL**
Think of a time when you were anticipating a big life change: marriage, birth of a child, a move or a new job. How did the reality of the change compare to what you anticipated?
- LOOK AT THE BOOK**
Ponder the promised changes in Isaiah 9:2-7. Imagine that you are reading this before the birth of Christ, perhaps during a time of oppression. Which phrases stand out to you? What would you be anticipating? How does this compare to the events of Jesus' life on earth?
- Now ponder Revelation 21:1-7 and 22:1-6. What is especially meaningful to you in these promises? How does it fuel your anticipation of Jesus' second and final coming?
- THE NEXT STEP**
What difference do these promises make in your life here and now? How can you foster eager anticipation of the fulfillment of God's plans?

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Luke 1:38.
- Admit to yourself the area of surrender you need to address.
- Sign up for your participation in the *Community Bible Experience*.
- Other _____.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

BETHLEHEM LIVE	10
BIG TREE CHRISTMAS PARTY	14
FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING	18-25
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 10:30, 4 & 6 PM.....	24
CHRISTMAS DAY (NO SERVICES).....	25
CHRISTMAS RECESS (OFFICE CLOSED).....	26-30

JANUARY

FAMILY SUNDAY (ONE 9 AM SERVICE).....	1
NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	2
CATALYST ALL SMALL GROUP LEADERS' TRAINING	4
DISTRICTS YOUTH CONFERENCE	5-8
PARENT SUMMIT WITH GREG SPECK	14
WAYPOINT: BASICS	15
COMMUNITY BIBLE EXPERIENCE READING BEGINS	16