

PROMISE

Message Title: *Worth the Wait*
Message Date: December 14, 2025

CONNECT

What's one of your favorite stories in the Bible about Jesus? When did you first hear that story, and why is that story impactful?

PRAY TOGETHER

Read Psalm 67, then turn it into a prayer.
Add to this your own words of praise and request.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

This series is based on the idea that (1) God made a promise, (2) Jesus fulfilled that promise and (3) one day we will experience the complete fulfillment of that promise.

Explore these three aspects by studying the Scriptures below and responding to the questions that follow. Don't rush through this guide. The goal is not to get *right answers* or even answer all the questions, but to have thoughtful discussions that lead to renewed minds and transformed hearts.

Faith is not a matter of thinking something is true, but of entrusting yourself to God.

Thomas Merton

FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE IN JESUS' FIRST COMING

Luke 4:14-21 (NIV)

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

5. How does seeing Jesus intentionally choose Isaiah 61 shape your understanding of how He saw His own calling?

6. How can these words and phrases help you share the good news of Jesus with others?

7. Which specific promises from this passage do you feel are most needed in our day? Why?

8. What are examples in Scripture where you see Jesus focusing on and fulfilling these promises?

9. What forms of *poverty*—spiritual, emotional, relational—do you see Jesus addressing today?

10. How might the Spirit be inviting you to join Jesus in His mission to bring Good News, healing and freedom? What are practical examples?

THE ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT WHEN JESUS RETURNS

Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

*“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

¹⁰ *You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”*

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

11. What characteristics and attributes of God do you see in this passage? Which one are you most drawn to?
12. Which part of these passages and promises do you most long to experience? What are you going through that one (or those) specifically come to mind?

THE BIG TAKEAWAY

What’s **one thing** God showed you or said to you in this lesson that you never want to forget? Pause and ask Him how He feels about you and what He wants you to remember. Allow for a couple of minutes of silence and listen for Him to speak.

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

One of the best ways to hear God in your daily life is to have His words rooted in your heart. Memorize this Scripture, trusting God will bring His words to mind at just the right time.

*“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,”*

Luke 4:18a (NKJV)