



Year A – 3rd Sunday of Advent: Advent: Preparing with Patience

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting’s challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week’s challenge.}**

Let’s Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer: Leaders – let your group know that you will allow for 1 minute of silence to ponder the reading in your prayer time today. Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read the 2nd Reading: **Jas 5:7-10** - <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 12/11/2022, 12/14/2025, 12/17/2028

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Let’s begin today by calling on the Holy Spirit to enter this space. Dear Lord, help us to turn our worries over to You in a moment of silence. [pause] Let us simply rest in Your peace and soak in the words we have just heard and ponder our need for patience and preparation for your coming. [pause for 1 minute in silence]. Lord, we thank you for this time of silence, may Your peace continue to remain with us until Your coming. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What does God tell us to do in this reading to prepare for His coming?
2. Which of these items shared in the reading are the most difficult for you? {patience, remain firm in trust of the Lord, do not complain about others, live by the examples given by the prophets}

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on the Spirituality of Advent (5.34 min) - <https://youtu.be/MAWnDA5cWD8>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

3. Bishop Barron mentions that Advent is a season of waiting - waiting on the Lord. Have you experienced this “waiting on God” in your life before? What was it like? How did that work out for you?
4. In general, do you feel that you are more patient with those you love or less? Why do you think this is?
5. Bishop Barron mentions that often we are not ready for what God wants to offer to us. Has there been a time in your past when you can recognize how God rightfully had you wait for something so that you could fully receive His gift?
6. Waiting on God to work and act reminds us of our need to trust and depend on Him. This can be difficult. Is there something or some way you know you can increase your dependence on God or become more patient?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Prepare spiritually for the arrival of Jesus by going to reconciliation and prayerfully reflecting and listing the areas in your life you take your dependence on God for granted.
- Many people are waiting for God to act in their lives. He often chooses to act through his disciples. Consider if there is a person in your life to whom you should reach out during this season. Reaching out, simply to show concern, encouragement, or love in some way.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Holy Spirit, grow in us a desire to turn away from unnecessary busyness and create space in our lives for reflection. Help us to build or grow a daily habit of prayer so we can turn to You for guidance. Allow our hearts to be open to Your will so that we can become the saints You call us to be, ever eager to share You with others through our words and deeds. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Gospel: **Matthew 11:2-11** Reading 1: **IS 35:1-6a 10**