

PREPARE | 12-6-15

REFLECT & DISCUSS

What does it take to prepare...

A great meal? A romantic getaway? To be a great parent?
To be a champion track star? To harvest a trophy buck? To build your dream home?

- Producing anything of value takes time, effort, and experience. It rarely goes as expected and does not always turn out right the first time.
- Preparation can be hard work, does it always pay off?
- What principles are similar to preparing for the Arrival of Jesus, what is different?

READ: *Luke 2:22-38*

Simeon and Anna were two devout followers of God. How did they prepare for the arrival of the Messiah? How did they know Him when they saw Him? Do you think they could see and understand things other people could not? Why? Is it possible we are missing some things Jesus wants to reveal to us? Do you find it hard to wait patiently before God especially when things seem silent?

READ: *John 11:6*

Jesus was silent for two days. Jesus waited two whole days before beginning to answer the request of the women He knew very well. I am certain those two days seemed like forever to Mary and Martha, but not to Jesus. Why? How can we learn to trust Jesus in the silence. How does this prepare us for things coming in our future?

READ: *Isaiah 40:26-31*

Verse 31 says, “They that wait on the Lord” or “They that hope in the Lord”. Do you think this passage is simply about being passive and enduring life until it gets better? This passage indicates two critical components to being prepared: Patience and Participation. How can you be both patient and actively participate with God at the same time? Is this possible?

CHALLENGE

Trust God is at work even when you can't see anything happening.

PRAYER

Jesus, I trust you and will lean not on my own understanding!