



Waiting is not wasted when waiting on the Lord

GETTING STARTED GUIDE

This Guide will walk you through implementing *WAITING HERE FOR YOU* with your church community this ADVENT season.

STARTING A *WAITING HERE FOR YOU* ADVENT CAMPAIGN

BEGIN. A season overflowing with anticipation, Christmas comes the same time each year with great hope and promise of a baby born long ago. But this season meant for joy is often consumed by Busyness, pressure, mixed emotions, and is gone as quickly as it came.

The *Waiting Here for You* Advent campaign offers three sermons and four Bible study sessions from Passion City Church Pastor Louie Giglio. The purpose is to remind us of the richness of Advent, a season of waiting and preparation. And it is through this waiting season that we prepare our hearts to greet December 25th with joy, peace, hope, and refreshed promise in our newborn King.

IMPLEMENT.

1. Establish Vision and Unity (60 days before launch)

- Present an overview of the *Waiting Here for You* campaign and message to your leaders and staff to gain vision and unity.
- Develop a strategy to announce this Advent campaign to your congregation and the surrounding community. A special preaching event and small group study like this are especially effective to reach out to your community. The resources with this guide can help you let your community know about this campaign.

2. Announce and Organize (30 days before launch)

- Recruit a prayer team to pray for Share the Dream Sunday.
 - Pray for unity, spiritual growth, and preparation.
 - Pray that your current congregation develops lasting relationships
 - Pray for the community members who will join your congregation
- Meet with group leaders and/or Sunday School teachers for orientation.
 - Set anxious minds at ease. Group leaders are functioning as hosts and facilitators. They can just worry about keeping the conversation going. All the questions and prompts for group discussion are in the *Waiting Here for You* study guide.
- Order *Waiting Here for You* resources. ChurchSource.com offers bulk discounts for churches and individuals. Refer to the bulk order guide included with this guide. Each individual needs one study guide. The video teaching is included in the study guide, so every person has access to it. DVDs of the video teaching are also available. A daily devotional also entitled *Waiting Here for You* is additionally available but not needed for the study.
- Begin your announcement campaign using the resources available with this guide.
 - Put together a page or a post on your website where people can learn about the *Waiting Here For You* message and sign-up for a small group, if they are not already part of one.
 - Utilize the bulletin inserts, PowerPoint slide, website graphics, postcard invites, and printable poster to alert people in your church.

3. Fine-Tune (14 days to launch)

- Plan a sign-up Sunday for registration of new groups and classes. Provide a brief introduction to *Waiting Here for You* and the Advent campaign.
- Make sure that *Waiting Here for You* resources are available at a resource table or through your church bookstore.
- Ensure you have enough leaders or hosts so groups are no larger than 10-12 people.

LAUNCH. Advent traditionally begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve on 24 December. The schedule below is tailored for 2023 but will work any Advent.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE:

Week of November 26 - Preach a message on Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation. Small groups do *Waiting Here for You* session 1.

Week of December 3 - Preach *Waiting Here for You* sermon 1, small groups do session 2.

Week of December 10 - Preach sermon 2, small groups do session 3.

Week of December 17 - Preach sermon 3, small groups do session 4.