Name: _____

DEEP DIVE · THEME LESSON

Waiting for God, Four Ways

TODAY'S BIG IDEA	God's people have always waited for God. All four readings say God keeps his promises, and they show us how to wait well.
BIBLE READINGS	Isaiah 40:1–11 · Psalm 85 · 2 Peter 3:8–15a · Mark 1:1–8
MEMORY VERSE	"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

1 The hardest wait

The hardest thing I ever had to wait for:

2 Reading detectives

Your group's reading: _____. Fill in your row, then fill in the others as each group reports.

Reading	Who is waiting?	Waiting for what?	What does God promise?	What should they do while they wait?
Isaiah 40:1–11				
Psalm 85				

2 Peter 3:8–15a				
Mark 1:1–8				

3 Report and compare

1. **What do all four readings have in common?**

2. **Find a phrase in each reading that shows God keeps his word.**

4 God keeps his word

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God stands forever.

Mark 1:2–3 As it is written in the prophets, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you: the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!’ ”

1. **Isaiah's promise took hundreds of years to come true. What does that teach us about waiting for Jesus to return?**

5 Waiting the wrong way, waiting the right way

2 Peter 3:3–4 knowing this first, that in the last days mockers will come, walking after their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

1. **What do the mockers say? Do people still say things like this?**

2. **Another wrong way to wait: "Jesus will forgive me anyway, so it doesn't matter how I live." What does Peter say instead?**

"What is meant by this Petition? The kingdom of God comes indeed of itself, without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also."

Luther's Small Catechism, the Second Petition ("Thy kingdom come") · Read it in the Reading Room

1. **Luther says God's kingdom comes whether we pray or not. Then why pray "Thy kingdom come"?**

6 My Advent waiting plan

Like Isaiah, I will tell someone good news about Jesus. Who?

Like the psalm, I will listen to God by:

Like Peter says, I will make peace with:

Like John says, I will turn away from:

7 Pray

Pray the Lord's Prayer together, slowing down at "Thy kingdom come." Then: "Lord, you always keep your promises. Help us wait for you with faith, and come to us this Advent. Amen."

Scripture: World English Bible (public domain). Free to print and copy.