

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

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# SERMON SERIES

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TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

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## SERIES OVERVIEW FOR BEHOLD THE SAVIOR: A Christmas and Advent Series

While Israel awaited salvation from a mighty warrior king, God had a different plan. The Christmas Story speaks of a baby, born to a virgin mother, who is the promised Savior of the whole world. When we look deeper into the Christmas Story, we see familiar characters who witnessed much, but it is in their interactions with Jesus that we discover how we can deepen our sense of wonder and awe. *Behold the Savior* will take a deeper look into those interactions to help us anticipate Jesus' arrival, behold His presence, wonder at God's plan, and live in awe of our Savior's love.

## "BEHOLD THE SAVIOR" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – The Waiting Game (Isaiah 9:6-7) |** During Christmas, we all begin to wait. We anticipate tearing open those gifts on Christmas morning, hoping for the newest video game console, the freshest kicks, or perhaps a destination vacation! Anticipating these things isn't altogether a bad thing, but during this season, we have an opportunity to anticipate something better – Jesus!
- **Session 2 – Observing the Remarkable (Luke 1:35-37) |** When we look at the miracle of Jesus' birth, none would behold Jesus like Mary. Her part in God's plan was monumental, and she entered into His plan with trust and joy instead of doubt and fear. During the Christmas season, we must be ready to look past the surface-level celebrations and behold the remarkable work of God as Mary did.
- **Session 3 – The First to Know (Luke 2:8-12) |** Human beings are capable of some pretty amazing things that make our eyes widen and jaws drop with wonder! Some experiences even leave us utterly speechless! When we truly behold Jesus' birth and what He has done for us, it should leave us with such wonder that we urgently spread the good news.
- **Session 4 – Shock and Awe (Luke 2:13-14) |** Christmas is a time to celebrate the coming of the promised Savior, and when we look closely, angels are present at each point! From prophecy to promise fulfilled, angels were in awe of God and worshiped Him ceaselessly. And when we behold God's redemptive plan fulfilled through Jesus, we should also stand in awe and worship Him ceaselessly.

## "BEHOLD THE SAVIOR" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

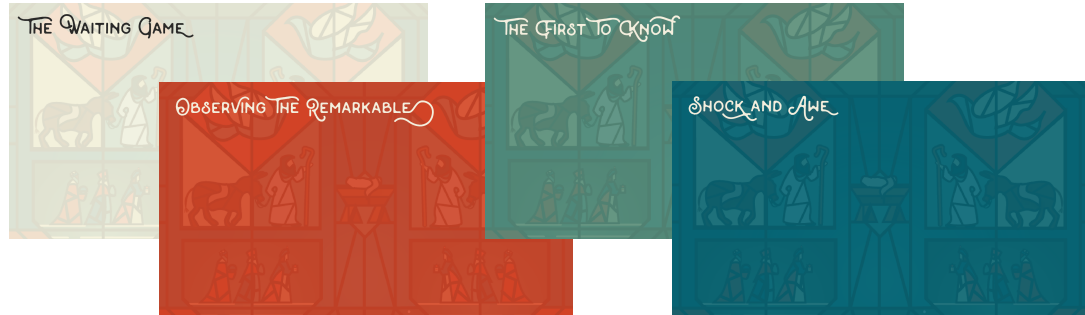
# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

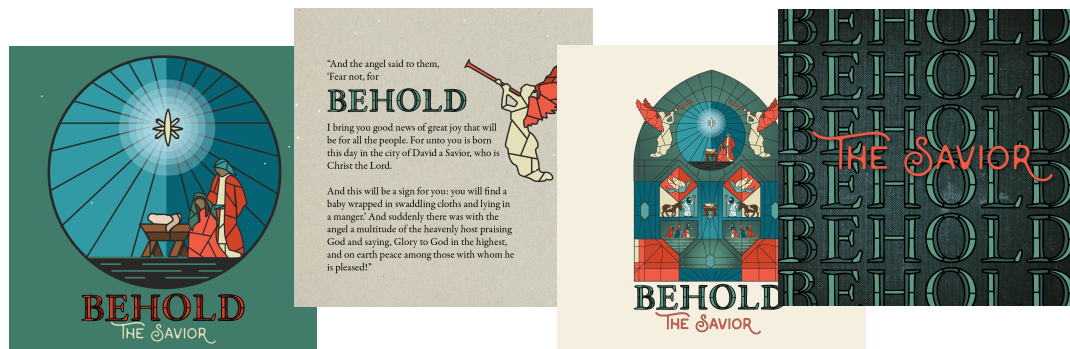
## BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



## PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



## INSTAGRAM IMAGES



## LOGO TREATMENT

**BEHOLD**  
THE SAVIOR

NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## ***Behold the Savior Sermon Series | Session 1: The Waiting Game***

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**How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series |** YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

**A Prayer Before You Prepare |** Heavenly Father, all glory, honor, and praise belong to You alone! You are worthy of all of my adoration. You alone formed the world and called what You created "good." Thank You for being who You are. Thank You for creating me in Your likeness. Thank You for Your abundant mercy and grace. Every good gift, including Your Word, is a gift to me. Today, I want to worship You! Let my life be for You and Your glory. Lord, please give me Your wisdom and insight now as I approach Your Word. Help me to discern the truth of this text. Help me to not rely on my own understanding. Remove my ego, wants, and selfish desires. Guide and direct me as I prepare to teach the truth of Your Word to the students whom You love and have placed within my care for such a time as this. May the words I speak be those You want spoken, may the words they hear be those You want heard, and may Your name be glorified through it all. Amen!

## ***Behold the Savior Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare***

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**Series Snapshot** | *Behold the Savior* is a four-session sermon series that will put your students behind the experiences of those who had real, personal, and faith-deepening interactions with Jesus in the Christmas Story. This series will encourage their anticipation, beholding, wonder, and awe of the Savior.

**Series Overview** | While Israel awaited salvation from a mighty warrior king, God had a different plan. The Christmas Story speaks of a baby, born to a virgin mother, who is the promised Savior of the whole world. When we look deeper into the Christmas Story, we see familiar characters who witnessed much, but it is in their interactions with Jesus that we discover how we can deepen our sense of wonder and awe. *Behold the Savior* will take a deeper look into those interactions to help us anticipate Jesus' arrival, behold His presence, wonder at God's plan, and live in awe of our Savior's love.

- **Session 1 – The Waiting Game (Isaiah 9:6-7)** | During Christmas, we all begin to wait. We anticipate tearing open those gifts on Christmas morning, hoping for the newest video game console, the freshest kicks, or perhaps a destination vacation! Anticipating these things isn't altogether a bad thing, but during this season, we have an opportunity to anticipate something better – Jesus!
- **Session 2 – Observing the Remarkable (Luke 1:35-37)** | When we look at the miracle of Jesus' birth, none would behold Jesus like Mary. Her part in God's plan was monumental, and she entered into His plan with trust and joy instead of doubt and fear. During the Christmas season, we must be ready to look past the surface-level celebrations and behold the remarkable work of God as Mary did.
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### ***Behold the Savior Series | Session 1***

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**Large Group Teaching Summary** | During Christmas, we all begin to wait. We anticipate tearing open those gifts on Christmas morning, hoping for the newest video game console, the freshest kicks, or perhaps a destination vacation! Anticipating these things isn't altogether a bad thing, but during this season, we have an opportunity to anticipate something better – Jesus!

**Key Takeaway** | Jesus has freed us from sin and is coming again, so we should eagerly anticipate and celebrate His arrival.

**Scripture Focus** | Isaiah 9:6-7

**What You May Need** | *Optional Illustration: Christmas Traditions (Personal Story/Prop)*, *Optional Illustration: On the Hunt (Personal Story)*, *Optional Illustration: What Are You Waiting For? (Personal Story)*

### I. Introduction

- A. Welcome to the new series we're starting called *Behold the Savior*.
  - 1. Look around! Trees are lit, gingerbread lattes are back, and gifts are being purchased with the hope that they will get wrapped in a timely manner. Houses are being decorated, family plans are being made, and most of us look forward to this time of year. It's Christmas!
  - 2. While today, the world anticipates the morning of Christmas to see what shiny new gadget they were gifted, Israelites had been anticipating something, or rather someone, much more special. Someone who would come and change everything. Someone who had been talked about, dreamt about, and even promised by God Himself.
  - 3. The story of Jesus' birth is not uncommon. Shelves will be decked with the nativity scene, whether ceramic or Fisher Price. Artwork with Scripture will be displayed for a few weeks, and everyone will hum or sing along to spiritual hymns that have become "Christmas classics."
  - 4. The problem is that in today's world, Jesus has become just a part of Christmas for many people, including Christians. Instead, we anticipate the family, the food, the gifts, the time off from school or work, and we look to Jesus during the candlelight service or when we grab that piece of chocolate from the advent calendar.
- B. Now, these aren't bad things! Traditions have been made and kept for years, and while there are many things to celebrate, we just have to remember that there is something much better to anticipate than all of these things. But since we're on the topic, let's talk about what we look forward to around the Christmas Season!
  - 1. **Optional Illustration: Christmas Traditions**
    - a) **NOTE: Tell a story about anticipating a Christmas tradition with your family. Or, perhaps share about a time you had asked your parents and/or Santa for a specific toy/item and could barely wait any longer! Share what it was like to get what you wanted or what it was like to be disappointed.**
    - b) **EX.** I share the story about the first time I got to stay up and decorate our Christmas tree. It was the first time I was allowed to stay awake PAST midnight! I looked forward to doing that each year. OR I would share the story about wanting a Razor scooter. I walked everywhere as a kid and thought a Razor scooter would not only get me to my destination faster but look cooler in the process!
- C. Getting that "thing" that you anticipated at Christmas can lead to feelings of amazement and satisfaction, but Scripture makes it clear that we must "Seek first the kingdom of God" (Matt 6:33) and "Set your minds on things that are above" (Col 3:2). Why? Because the material things of this world cannot fill us fully. Jesus is the endless supply that we all desperately need. He alone can completely satisfy our deepest longings.

### II. Tension

- A. WE BECOME INCREDIBLY IMPATIENT WHEN WE KNOW WHAT WE WANT

- B. It's been said that believers do a great job of asking God for their needs and desires to be met but are incredibly impatient. The problem here is that we know what we want, we know when we want it, and we aren't strong enough to wait.
1. I can't think of a better time to talk about this than now, at Christmas time!
    - a) **Optional Illustration: On the Hunt**
      - (1) **NOTE: Share a time when you went on the hunt for the Christmas presents that your parents or a loved one bought.**
      - (2) **EX.** I share about the few Christmases where I snooped around closets, searched under beds, in drawers, etc., just to find the gift my parents got me. My excitement got the best of me, but in the end, it ruined the surprise!
  2. ANTICIPATION CAN LEAD TO CURIOSITY, AND CURIOSITY CAN LEAD TO FEAR. Fear that what you want and need will not be provided, and fear can lead to bending or even breaking the rules just to have confirmation. Sometimes, because we are impatient, we just decide to forget about it and move on to the next thing!
  3. Have you ever had to wait in a line at a store or been in a drive-thru line at your favorite fast-food restaurant, and you thought that the wait just wasn't worth it in the long run? What do you do? Just leave! Similarly, waiting for that gift on Christmas Day can sometimes feel like it's just not worth the surprise.
  4. On the flip end, ANTICIPATION CAN CREATE A HEALTHY YEARNING. Knowing what is coming, even if the specific details are sparrred, can lead to excitement and a desire to share with others with what the future may hold!
  5. Anticipating something does hold a sense of mystery or suspense. "What is it going to be?" "Am I going to love this thing?" "Will I tire of it and desire something new?" "Will this one thing make my life complete!?" Anticipation is a part of human nature!
- C. The Bible is full of stories involving people, generations, and their interactions with one another. In Isaiah 9, we read a prophecy of a child who is to be born, but this is not an ordinary child. This child would change everything for all of humanity...but when? A few days, weeks, or even years? No one knew, so people anticipated the coming of this Savior.

### III. Scripture

- A. Before we dig into these few verses and passages, let's talk about who Isaiah is. Isaiah was a prophet. A person whom God used to get His message to Israel. There were many prophets in the Old Testament with names you've probably heard, like Daniel, Elijah, Moses, Jeremiah, and many more. Some prophets were given abilities through God, like calling down fire and plagues, while some were able to see the future, but the primary task for all prophets was to make the Word of God known.
1. Isaiah had many visions and prophecies, but a common message he seemed to receive from God was that of the desperate need for repentance and judgment. Isaiah would warn everyone of the potential consequences that would come if they continued to live a sinful, unfaithful life.
  2. Eventually, Isaiah began having profound prophecies regarding a Messiah. The Messiah was said to be a figure who would bring about salvation and restoration! In one of his prophecies, specifically in Isaiah 7:14, he speaks of a



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3. virgin giving birth to a child named Immanuel. So, Isaiah wasn't just having some kind of vision that was difficult to interpret. God had revealed knowledge of the future to Isaiah, a future where people would be redeemed! As you can imagine, this led many to anxiously anticipate the day when this Messiah would come.
- B. Read ISAIAH 9:6-7
1. While this passage is the central theme of most Christmas programs and musicals, not to mention that it is one of the more widely memorized Scriptures, it can be very easy to just read past it as something we might think we already know. But the truth is, there is much to unpack here! Let's look at verse 6.
    - a) *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given"*
      - (1) First, this Messiah would come into the world like everyone else. He would be born naturally.
      - (2) As the second Person of the Trinity, the Son, He would be "given." By who, you ask? Well, by God, of course! God intervenes at the birth of the Messiah to give a gift to all of humanity. Himself in the flesh.
    - b) *"And the government shall be upon on His shoulder"*
      - (1) **ASK:** Have you ever seen a newborn? Perhaps a baby sibling or in the church's nursery? What can newborns do? Absolutely nothing!
      - (2) However, Isaiah prophesies that this newborn would already have more power than the world governments. This newborn, fully human and fully God, would already have more strength than all the powers of the world!
    - c) *"And His name shall be called..."*
      - (1) *Wonderful Counselor*
        - (a) Wonderful, meaning "full of wonder," means that this Messiah would be extraordinary.
        - (b) A counselor is someone who is full of wisdom and guidance.
      - (2) *Mighty God*
        - (a) The Messiah would be mighty, like a warrior!
        - (b) This child would literally be God Himself! This Messiah would be God incarnate, or God in the flesh.
      - (3) *Everlasting Father*
        - (a) This Messiah would be father-like, like kings would claim over their subjects. However, this Messiah would be this figure for humanity forever.
        - (b) Fathers have a unique responsibility to look after their children and be prepared to nurture, love, lift up, and care, but also be ready to defend their children from danger. This Messiah would do all of these things.
      - (4) *Prince of Peace*
        - (a) Here, the Prince of Peace would usher in a new reality where the tension between God and all creation would be mended on earth and forever more.
    - d) *"Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end..."*

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- e) This Messiah would be the final king! No more fighting for power or long crowing ceremonies! His reign, supremacy, and peace will be never-ending!
    - (1) While David and all of the other kings before him and those who followed were flawed, this Messiah would be perfect.
  - 2. We don't have to worry about kings and fights for power in the United States, but we all have a grasp on how government is run by powerful people. Isaiah's prophecy says this Messiah, Immanuel, would be wiser than all people, mightier than all of the kingdoms, loving like a father, and more peaceful than all of the governments.
    - a) If you watched kingdoms fight to the death for power, flawed kings and powerful people take advantage of those under them, and heard that someone was coming to save you, how much would you anticipate His arrival?
  - 3. Want to know the crazy thing? This isn't the first time the Messiah was promised! This wasn't the first time that Jesus was talked about to God's people! Generations before Isaiah prophesied the coming of a Savior, people had been waiting for Him to come.
- C. Read GENESIS 3:14-15
- 1. Oh, the fall of humanity. If you aren't familiar, here is a brief recap!
    - a) God created everything in the universe, and that included humans. He spoke everything into existence EXCEPT us. For us, He "formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life."
    - b) God knew that it was not good for the man to be alone, so He created a woman, placed them in the Garden of Eden, and gave them a strict command not to eat fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
    - c) Through Satan's deception, Eve ate fruit from the tree, thus allowing sin into the world.
  - 2. And sin has consequences. God can't turn a blind eye to the disobedience of His creation, so He gives Adam and Eve their punishments, but that lesson is for another time. Let's look into Satan's punishment.
    - a) *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring"*
      - (1) Enmity is a fancy word for hostility or problems. Here, God is saying that there will always be hostility between the woman and her lineage and Satan and his lineage.
    - b) *"He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*
      - (1) This is known as the "*protoevangelium*," meaning the first Gospel! This is the first time in scripture, very early on, that Jesus, the Messiah, our Redeemer, is referenced.
      - (2) He would be someone who would "bruise the head," or rather, defeat the serpent and his offspring of sin. In return, the serpent would "bruise His heel." This means that Satan may get a hit, but it wouldn't matter in the end.

- (3) From the beginning of the Bible, Jesus is not just mentioned as the second part of the Trinity but as the offspring of Eve, a person who would come to defeat sin once and for all.
3. For centuries, Israelites knew this and lived with anticipation that this figure would come and save them.
4. Generations passed, the offspring of Satan continued to ravish the world, God continued to bless His people, provide help in hard times, and yet, people still awaited the arrival of this Savior.
5. Everyone waited. Some for nearly 1,000 years, some for hundreds, but they all waited for God to put His plan in place. The plan to rescue us from sin and death. A plan to be free from the punishment we deserved.
6. Some became impatient, and some anticipated the arrival of Jesus with joy.

### IV. Application

A. How will you anticipate Jesus this Christmas season?

1. WILL YOU BE IMPATIENT?

a) There are many examples of people in Scripture who became impatient when awaiting God's promises for them.

(1) *Abraham and Sarah* were promised by God that they would have a son despite their old age. However, as years passed without the fulfillment of this promise, Sarah became impatient and suggested that Abraham have a child with her maidservant, Hagar.

(2) When *Moses* was leading the Israelites through the desert after their liberation from Egypt, the people grew impatient with the journey and the lack of food and water. They complained and grumbled against Moses and God, expressing their desire to return to Egypt. They became so impatient that they chose slavery over freedom.

(3) In the New Testament, Jesus' *disciples* often struggled with impatience regarding their understanding of His mission and the establishment of His kingdom. They frequently questioned Him about when certain events would occur, highlighting their eagerness for immediate results rather than trusting in God's timing.

b) Being impatient can lead to some negative outcomes!

(1) ***Optional Illustration: What Are You Waiting For?***

(a) **NOTE: Share a personal story, or perhaps some examples, of when being impatient produced negative consequences.**

(b) **EX.** I share a personal story about putting together IKEA furniture. After putting one item together, I rushed through the next projects without taking my time or looking at the instructions, leading to a poorly constructed dresser that fell apart many times.

c) Being impatient can leave you feeling the absence of joy and excitement.

2. OR WILL YOU ANTICIPATE WITH JOY?

## ***Behold the Savior Sermon Series | Session 1: The Waiting Game***

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3. The word Advent literally means *the arrival of a notable person, event, or thing*. Christmas is something that we all anticipate, but why? The gifts, the family, the food, the weather? These are all fun and great things, but those things pale in comparison to what we should anticipate this season: Jesus.
  - a) How can we anticipate Jesus this season with Joy?
    - (1) PLAN AND PREPARE: Take part in reading Scripture daily and make Jesus a part of your Christmas tradition
    - (2) SHARE your anticipation with friends and family!
    - (3) Anticipation isn't just about the endpoint; it's about the journey as well. BE PRESENT, GRATEFUL, AND FULL OF HOPE.

### **V. Gospel**

#### **A. CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT CHRISTMAS**

1. There would be no Christmas with Christ. Over the generations, we have forgotten that beyond the twinkly lights, Christmas trees, seasonal baked goods, and presents is the culmination of thousands of years of joyful anticipation.
2. Jesus came over 2,000 years ago to fulfill prophecy. The prophecy that one day, we would no longer be slaves to sin. Isaiah's prophecy says Jesus would not only be the Son of God but an everlasting, mighty, wise, and peaceful Messiah.

#### **B. When we think back to the prophecies, we are included in them as well.**

1. We have sin in us, no matter how good we think we may be, and Jesus came to rescue all of us from the punishment we truly deserve.
2. Don't ever feel like you've done too much to not receive the gift of grace. Perhaps this Christmas season, the gift you need the most isn't bought in a store or online. The gift you need is salvation, and Jesus is the only one who can give that to you.

#### **C. Because Jesus paid our debt, we can freely come before God and have forgiveness of all our sins – past, present, and future. All we have to do is repent of (turn away from/ask forgiveness for) our sins and believe that Jesus really is God, that He really came down from Heaven and lived a sinless life, that He really died on the cross, that He really rose from the grave, and that He's the Savior we desperately need. When we submit our lives to Him in this way, we're granted forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and a relationship with God. He approaches us with incredible grace and mercy; He sees our shortcomings and sins, yet He still chooses to offer us forgiveness. When we repent of our sins, turn away from them, and give our lives to Jesus by committing to follow Him, God doesn't see our sinfulness anymore. He sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus!**

### **VI. Conclusion**

- A. So, how are you going to enter into this Christmas season? With eyes and heart fixated on the material things of the world, or with your heart anticipating the celebration of our promised Savior?
- B. Generations awaited the coming of Jesus, and He came. He came and fulfilled what was spoken long ago, so you may think to yourself that you have nothing to anticipate. Hebrews 9:28 says, *"So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will*

## ***Behold the Savior Sermon Series | Session 1: The Waiting Game***

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- C. *appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him."*
- D. Jesus is coming again. So like those before you, anticipate Jesus this season with joy.
- E. Let's pray.

## ***Behold the Savior* Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: The Waiting Game**

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**Series Overview** | While Israel awaited salvation from a mighty warrior king, God had a different plan. The Christmas Story speaks of a baby, born to a virgin mother, who is the promised Savior of the whole world. When we look deeper into the Christmas Story, we see familiar characters who witnessed much, but it is in their interactions with Jesus that we discover how we can deepen our sense of wonder and awe. *Behold the Savior* will take a deeper look into those interactions to help us anticipate Jesus' arrival, behold His presence, wonder at God's plan, and live in awe of our Savior's love.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | During Christmas, we all begin to wait. We anticipate tearing open those gifts on Christmas morning, hoping for the newest video game console, the freshest kicks, or perhaps a destination vacation! Anticipating these things isn't altogether a bad thing, but during this season, we have an opportunity to anticipate something better – Jesus!

**Key Takeaway** | Jesus has freed us from sin and is coming again, so we should eagerly anticipate and celebrate His arrival.

**Scripture Focus** | Isaiah 9:6-7

### ***Behold the Savior* | Session 1 Discussion Questions**

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You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

#### **Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking**

1. What are you most excited about this Christmas season?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. Why do you think it's easy for the true meaning of Christmas to get overshadowed by the materialistic aspects of the holiday?
3. Have you ever experienced impatience when waiting for something you really wanted? How did you handle that impatience, and what were the consequences?
4. Have you ever caught yourself focusing more on the gifts and festivities of Christmas rather than the birth of Jesus? How can you shift your focus back to the real reason for celebration?
5. Can you think of any other instances in the Bible where people had to wait for a long time for God's promises to be fulfilled? How did they handle the waiting period?
6. Have you had to wait for God to do something in your life? What did that look like? What were your reactions/emotions?
7. What are some ways you can be present, grateful, and full of hope during this Christmas season?
8. Which one of the names for Jesus listed in Isaiah 9 means the most to you? Why?
  - a. Wonderful Counselor – Mighty God – Everlasting Father – Prince of Peace
9. How can you share your anticipation of Jesus with your friends and family during the Christmas season?