



## Group Leader Guide

### “The Wait Is Over” - Peace On Earth, Good Will Towards Men

#### December 13, 2020

#### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

#### // Message Summary

The Israelite’s waited around 400 years for the Messiah to come. Sometimes it feels like we are also waiting for God to show up in our lives. However, as Teaching Pastor **Ben Foote** explains in week 2 of “**Peace On Earth, Good Will Towards Men,**” we have amazing hope because on a day in history, Jesus was born, bringing with Him peace, joy, and delivered promises!

#### // Biblical Background: Old Testament Chronology and Order

The Intertestamental Period, as Ben mentioned, was the period between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament. This was a period of roughly 400 years. However, the Old Testament isn’t in chronological order. It is organized, more or less, by genre. The last book of history that takes us up to 400 BC is the book of Nehemiah. After Nehemiah are plenty of books that take place or were written well before the time of Nehemiah. Confusing, I know.

The first section of the Old Testament is Pentateuch, or Torah. This consists of the first 5 books of the Bible, which establishes the Law. They are also historical and tell of certain events from the beginning of time to when the Hebrew people enter the Promised Land.

The next section is the historical books, starting in Joshua and ending in Esther (which comes after Nehemiah, but happens

before.)

Next are the poetical, or wisdom, books. These go from Job through the Song of Solomon and are almost exclusively made up of poetry.

Then comes the Prophets, split into 2 separate categories: the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets. That designation has to do with the books’ lengths, not their importance. Many of these prophet’s stories can be found in the historical books. The Major Prophets are arranged chronologically, and then that resets at the beginning of the Minor prophets. Malachi is the last book of the Bible, and also the last written, during the time of Nehemiah.

The New Testament is similarly confusing. The first 4 books tell different perspectives of the life of Jesus. They are in the order set by Saint Augustine because he thought that was the order that they were written in, though most scholars agree now that Mark was written first.

Then comes the book of Acts, which tells the story of the early Church. It is actually a direct sequel to the book of Luke.

Then come the epistles, which are letters written by Apostles. They are arranged by author. Paul’s letters come first and are arranged by length, not chronologically. Then come the other apostles’ letters.

Finally comes Revelation, a book written by another apostle (John), that is in the apocalyptic genre of writing.



**Group Discussion Questions**  
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**// Bible References**

Luke 2:14; Jeremiah 31:31, 33-34; Psalm 13:1-2; Luek 2:10-11, 25-26, 28-30;

**// Message Screenshots**

- Intertestamental Period/The Silent Years/The Long Wait
- The Long Wait is finally over.
- “Long lay the world in sin and error, pining until He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born.”
- “O come, O come, Emmanuel. And ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

**// Community Questions**

1. What is your favorite Christmas song and why?

**// Core Questions**

1. When was a time in your life (and it may be right now) where you felt like God was silent or inactive in your life?
2. What were you waiting for, or hoping would happen?
3. What is something in your life that you are waiting for, or hoping will happen, right now?
4. What hope does the Christmas story bring you personally?
5. How can you “rejoice” this season despite the hardships, unknowns, etc., that you may be walking through right now?
6. What excites you most about being part of raising \$1,000,000 to give away to Flatirons’ partners and other initiatives this year?

**// Challenge**

Go to [flatironschurch.com/give](https://flatironschurch.com/give) to donate towards the \$1,000,000!