

Questions for Christmas Hymns Week 1

- Can you believe it is Christmas season again?
- What are some things that you look forward to the least about the season?
- What are some things you look forward to the most about the season?
- What are some of your family's favorite Christmas traditions?
- Charles Wesley was the writer of the Christmas hymn this week. How much did you know about his life before the sermon? Had you even heard of him?
 - Does knowing the story of the hymn-writer's life put a more human face on the songs they left us?
 - Charles Wesley struggled with his call to ministry and his faith after a disappointing time in America. How does it make you feel knowing that one of the world's greatest hymn writers drifted in his relationship with God?
 - He had a life-changing experience with illness that led him back to God. Has anyone had a story in their lives of either reconnecting with God, or growing deeper in relationship with God from a similar experience?
- Wesley was inspired to write this week's hymn (Come Thou Long Expected Jesus) after reading Haggai 2:7. Living in a time of poverty, and suffering himself, he tried to think of what the Jews would have been feeling about the birth of the Messiah. After reading Haggai 2:7 how do you feel about our day and age and our anticipating the second coming of the Messiah?
- The opening line of the song is "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus..." Be honest, how much do we look with longing and expectation to Christ's return?
 - When you think about the second coming of Christ, what thrills you the most?
- "From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee"
 - What fears do you have? Not fear of the dark, but genuine fears in life?
 - What sins do you struggle with being released from?
 - Do you seek rest in God? Do you know how to rest in God?
- Of the descriptions of the Messiah, which resonates with you and why?
 - Israel's strength and consolation
 - Hope of all the earth
 - Dear desired of every nation
 - Joy of every longing heart
- The Messiah's mission was to deliver, and to reign in us. These two acts emphasize the life of Jesus on earth in his first and second coming.
 - How did Jesus birth accomplish both delivery and reigning?
- "By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone. By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne."
 - What does this teach us about our role in redemption?
 - What does this teach us about the nature of the Savior we serve?