

PAUSED.

PROTECTING YOUR FAITH WHEN GOD SAYS “WAIT”

LEADER GUIDE

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HELPFUL LEADER TIPS

Before the study begins:

- Choose a location. (See tips on page 3 for choosing a location)
- Decide if you will serve food and determine who will provide it.
- Invite people to attend. Personal invitations often have the best results.
- Choose a time frame and try to stick to it. It shows love to respect people's time.
- Pray for those who will attend your group.

During the Study:

- Make sure you have enough seating.
- If you are showing videos, test them before your group arrives.
- Buy enough books for every member of the study.
- Have extra pens.
- Welcome each person as they arrive.

Choosing a Location:

The location of your study may have an impact on the atmosphere of the group. Choose a location that fits with the purpose of your group. Perhaps you are looking for a more relaxed type of study, then you might want to meet in a home or at a restaurant. However, it might be best for your group to meet at your church. Below are some pros to several possible locations.

- Meet at a Church
 - Central Location
 - Easy Parking- Typically
 - Access to plenty of chairs and tables

- Meet in a Home
 - More Comfortable
 - Might be easier to invite non-church friends
 - Removes the "Church" feel

- Meet at a Restaurant
 - Everyone can buy their own food
 - Brings the Church out into the community
 - May provide opportunities to witness to unbelievers

Size of Group:

- If you have a large group, consider sharing a meal together and then breaking into smaller groups.

- Groups of 4-6 people seem to promote the best discussions.

Other Helpful Tips:

- Consider leaving time at the beginning or end of the Bible study time for fellowship.
- Many people join a group in order to make friends, consider providing a time for connection.
- Make sure each person that comes to the group feels welcome. They are choosing to make the study a priority. Assure them they are making a wise choice.
- Always begin and end in prayer. Prayer opens the path for God to speak to your group.
- Email your group members throughout the week to encourage them to make their homework a priority.
- If someone misses a group meeting, connect with them and encourage them to come back next time.
- Pray for your group members during the week.

WEEK 1

WHEN GOD SAYS “WAIT”

Psalm 27:14

*“Wait patiently for the Lord.
Be brave and courageous.
Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.”*

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Page 12** - Why do you think God allowed Abraham to wait so long between the time his promise was given and the time Isaac was born?
2. **Page 15** - If faith is confidence in the things we cannot see, why do we so often base our level of faith on the circumstances we can see?
3. **Page 16** - What is an example of great faith that is talked about around the world today? Did that person need to wait to see his/her victory? If so, how long did that person have to wait?
4. **Page 18** - Do you truly believe God is good? Why or why not?
5. **Page 18** - Do you allow your timeline to get in the way of your faith? Explain.
6. **Page 21** - What can you do every day to help renew your mind?
7. **Page 23** - What lies have you believed that you need to take captive? What truth can you find in God's Word to help you renew your mind?
8. **Page 26** - Do you truly believe that the Holy Spirit is the best gift you could ever receive? Explain.
9. **Page 28** - What does it mean to you to be filled with the Spirit?

WEEK 2

WAITING FOR A PROMISE

Psalm 130:5

*“I am counting on the Lord;
yes, I am counting on him.
I have put my hope in his word.”*

WEEK 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Page 31** - Why do you think God asked Adam to wait instead of just creating Eve right away?
2. **Page 32** - Have you ever had an experience when you appreciated your answer to prayer more because you tried all the wrong answers in the wait?
3. **Page 33** - Is there a process God is asking you to follow while you wait? If yes, are you being faithful in the process?
4. **Page 37** - What effect do you think the time on the ark had on Noah's faith?
5. **Page 38** - Have you ever considered that it might be God who is waiting patiently while we get our lives in order and grow our character enough to handle the promise? How does that make you feel?
6. **Page 41** - Do you continue to show honor to those in authority over you even when their actions are not honorable?
7. **Page 43** - Have you ever had a dream that you felt was a promise from God? If so, what was that promise?
8. **Page 45** - Is your faith dependent on the circumstances around you? Does it tend to ebb and flow with your feelings and emotions?
9. **Page 46** - How can unforgiveness affect your faith?

WEEK 3

WAITING IN PERSECUTION

Micah 7:7

*“As for me, I look to the Lord for help.
I wait confidently for God to save me,
And my God will certainly hear me.”*

WEEK 3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Page 55** - Do you feel like you have taken the time to grow your own faith, or are you trusting in the faith of others to get you through?
2. **Page 55** - Have you ever been in a situation where God waited until the last minute to rescue you? How did you respond?
3. **Page 60** - Have you experienced a time of testing or suffering that has taught you something about Jesus? If so, what did you learn?
4. **Page 61** - When you find yourself in difficult circumstances, what is your first reaction?
5. **Page 63** - How would the end of the story have been different if Paul and Silas had chosen to complain and blame God for their situation instead of praising God?
6. **Page 64** - Is there a victory you need to turn into a testimony? Do you need to share the faithfulness of God with someone today?
7. **Page 66** - Have you ever been in a situation in which you had to choose to obey God instead of obeying a command from someone else in authority over you? If so, explain.
8. **Page 68** - Have you ever questioned your faith because your life does not look like someone else's life? Have you ever expected a different outcome and doubted God because it did not happen the way you wanted?

9. **Page 69** - How can it build your faith to realize that the struggles you have on this earth are not against flesh and blood but against the powers of evil?

10. **Page 72** - Have you allowed a situation where the enemy stole your earthly treasure to also steal your heavenly treasure? Has waiting for God to rescue you caused you to give up your heavenly treasure?

WEEK 4

WAITING FOR THE MIRACULOUS

Luke 24:49

*“And now I will send the Holy Spirit,
just as my Father promised.
But stay here in the city until
the Holy Spirit comes and fills you
with power from heaven.”*

WEEK 4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Page 75** - What do you think it was about this specific man that caused Jesus to leave the crowd and go with him?
2. **Page 76** - Why do you think Jesus called her out and didn't just let her receive her healing in secret?
3. **Page 77** - Have you ever had to wait while someone else received his or her miracle? If so, how did that make you feel?
4. **Page 80** - What would have happened if they had given up and gone home when they encountered difficulties?
5. **Page 80** - Have you ever had to battle in prayer in order to help a friend receive their miracle? If so, explain.
6. **Page 81** - Have you experienced a time where you didn't receive the physical miracle you were praying for, but instead received a spiritual miracle? If so, describe what happened.
7. **Page 82** - What are some practical ways that you can be the kind of friend who creates opportunities for others to meet with Jesus?
8. **Page 85** - Have you ever felt abandoned by those you care about most because of your faith? How did it make you feel?
9. **Page 88** - How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loved Lazarus and his family, yet he did not rush to heal him immediately?

10. **Page 90** - What do these verses reveal about the connection between love and fear?

11. **Page 94** - How do you think waiting for Jesus to raise their brother from the dead, instead of seeing Jesus simply heal his sickness, affected Mary and Martha's faith? How about Lazarus' faith?

WEEK 5

NO END IN SIGHT

Romans 8:25

*“But if we look forward
to something we don’t yet have,
we must wait patiently and confidently.”*

WEEK 5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Page 98** - Describe a time when someone discouraged you while you were waiting. How did it affect your faith?
2. **Page 100** - What can you learn from Hannah's testimony that you can apply to your own life?
3. **Page 101** - Is your first response in times of need to cry out to God or to call a friend? Why?
4. **Page 103** - Have you ever worked for something only to have it taken away or delayed because of someone else's actions? How did that make you feel?
5. **Page 106** - If John had previously known Jesus was the Messiah, what do you think had caused him to doubt?
6. **Page 107** - Look at your own life, are you merely studying the Word for head knowledge or are you allowing it to sink deep into your Spirit and change your life? Do you just know a lot about God or do you actually know God?
7. **Page 111** - How does it make you feel to know that the answer to your prayer may have been given, but the powers of darkness are preventing you from receiving it? How does that affect your faith?
8. **Page 112** - Have you lost faith because something you prayed for didn't happen?
9. **Page 116** - What has God promised us? How does this promise affect your faith?

WEEK 6

BUILDING FAITH

Romans 10:17

*“So faith comes from hearing, that is,
hearing the Good News about Christ.”*

WEEK 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Page 120** - Do you truly believe that the blood of Jesus is enough to successfully deal with the power and effect of sin in your life? Do you live like it? Would your life look different if you fully understood this truth? If so, how?
2. **Page 124** - How does it make you feel to know Jesus prayed for you before he was crucified?
3. **Page 125** - What is at least one thing you can learn about prayer from Jesus that you can apply to your own prayer life?
4. **Page 127** - The disciples could have asked Jesus to teach them anything. Why do you think they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray?
5. **Page 128** - In today's culture, there may not be people who are literally standing on the street corners praying for all to hear. However, this verse still applies to us today. How has social media become a "street corner?"
6. **Page 131** - Are you surprised when God answers your prayers, or do you truly expect Him to answer?
7. **Page 134** - Do you believe that your prayers are as powerful as Elijah's prayers were?
8. **Page 136** - What "stones" have you set up in your life to remind you of the miracles God has done?

9. **Page 137** - Are you sharing your testimony to encourage others in their walk with God? Do you find that you expect more from God when you hear of His great works?

10. What one thing from Paused has impacted you the most?

11. How will you apply the things you learned during this study to your life?

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