

Waiting on Jesus

Questions for Community Groups Week of September 24-30

2 Peter 3:1–14 | Hebrews 10:14 | 2 Corinthians 3:18

While we wait, we experience God in ways that we never could when we feel like we are in control. As you prepare this week, remember that you are being prayed for by your staff. Also, saturate yourself in His Word. The main text of 2 Peter 3:1-14 is one that Michael used as the basis for his sermon. You will also see a reference to Hebrews 10:14 in this guide and how we are positionally perfect because of Christ. To best prepare please take time to read 2 Corinthians 3:18 as well for the final verse in your group.

Say, The Bible is filled with stories of waiting. It is interesting for us to think we should not have to wait when scripture is filled with stores of waiting.

Ask, what is a bible story that deals with waiting? Who is willing to share? (Allow a couple of people to share a biblical account of waiting.)

Ask, How many of you are good at waiting? What do you believe it takes to be a good waiter?

Say, Many times we ask, How long do we have to wait? In this passage of scripture, Peter gives us clarity on the return of Christ.

Read 2 Peter 3:1-14

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. context is about the scoffers who say that Jesus is not really coming back.

Say, Michael mentioned that there are three reasons for the delay of Jesus. The first reason is, **God operates on a different clock** - His patience is greater than ours and time is totally different to Him.

Exercise - Do this little exercise with your group. Ask everyone to close their eyes and tell them you are going to ask them stand when they think a minute and a half has passed. Watch a clock and tell them when to start. After a minute ask everyone to open their eyes. Ask, how long did that feel? Say, that was actually on a minute. Say, Let's do this little exercise again and this time I want you to shout "Time" when you think it has been a minute and 15 seconds. Do the exercise again with the same directions but don't ask them to open their eyes until a minute and 15secs. has passed. (This time you are actually asking them to open their eyes at the right time.)

Say, Time is a weird thing at times and our view of time is different than God's. This little exercise is really just to illustrate differences in what we perceive of time.

Say, the second reason for delay is **Time for all to repent** - this is not universalism, (the belief that God will eventually let everyone into heaven) but is about His love and mercy towards us. God is waiting for those who will say yes to Him. It is because of His patience that you and I have the chance to respond to the gospel.

Ask, Who would like to share briefly how Christ drew you to Himself.

Say, The third reason is **It's not a delay** - His plan and timing are perfect. What seems like a delay to us is based upon our limitation of time. God operates outside of time and Peter reminds us that a day to Him is like a thousand years to us. It has only been a couple of days to God since Christ returned to heaven.

Ask, what are we to be doing in the waiting? Does anyone remember any of the points related to this from the sermon? Michael mentioned three things to do in the waiting:

- **Say**, the first one is to **Be diligent** – be active in the waiting. Do the things you already know to do.

Ask, what are some things that it is clear that we are to be diligent. (Share the gospel, give God glory, work out your salvation (live in a way that others know you are a Christ-follower)

- **Say**, the second is to **Be spotless** – It is not about living perfectly, but understanding and living complete in Christ.

Ask, Does this mean perfect behavior on our part? (This is not perfect behavior but surrender to Christ.)

Read Hebrews 10:14. The writer here is speaking of our position in Christ, not our behavior.

Say, This is where we learn to be - Quick to confess, repent and repeat. (rebound) (Remember Michael shared about shampoo – wash, rinse and repeat.)

- **Say**, Finally, Peter remind us to Be at peace - this is an active command. Both internal and external peace. With believers, others and with God.

Ask, what does peace with God look like for the Christ follower?

Say, One final challenge Michael gave was to imagine if you had everything about Christ removed from you.

Ask, Would there be any noticeable difference?

Say, This verse is a great reminder of what Christ calls us to when we continue to surrender to Him - And we all with unveiled faces reflect the Lords glory verse.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 - *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

Lead your group to share prayer requests and then close your time in prayer.