

Waiting for What's Next Questions for Community Groups Week of October 1-7

Hosts – Thank you for faithfully preparing to facilitate your group. The role that you play is a strategic part of FCC's desire to see people become more like Christ. As you prepare to host this week, please read the verses and allow them to impact your life personally, and if at all possible, participate in the daily 40 Days of Waiting Challenge that Michael is leading us in as a church. Feel free to call or email if you ever have any questions or suggestions regarding hosting community groups.

This week Michael started with the points of the sermon and saved the scripture for the end of the sermon. In preparing, read Psalm 145 before you host just to familiarize yourself again with the beauty of this passage.

Say, this week the sermon had to do with some NOT TO DO's in the waiting and one for sure TO DO. Let's start with the NOT TO DO's.

Ask, does anyone remember any of the four NOT TO DO's when you wait? (Allow time for group to share the ones they may remember)

Say, the first one is - **Sloth/inactivity** – (if you are able to find a picture of a sloth or maybe even the scene from Zootopia - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SmyATAYsNs>)

Say, remember also that laziness is not an activity.

Ask, When is the last time that you have heard someone **Predict with certainty**. (Possibly someone on a sports team guaranteeing a victory or someone saying they know that if, then.)

Say, When we predict with certainty that something is going to happen, we reveal that we think that God's plan revolves around us.

Say, one of the easiest things for many to do during the waiting is to grumble or be discontented.

Ask, anyone remember how the Israelites acted wandering in the desert before heading into the Promised Land. What kind of things did they grumble about?

Ask, What kinds of things do you find yourself grumbling about in life?

Say, Michael mentioned that one of the spiritual disciplines includes contentment. Ask, what are some of the other spiritual disciplines that believers will want to practice? (prayer, Bible study, scripture memory, etc)

Ask, what are some things you do when you find yourself grumbling? **Say**, Confession and repentance are a good place to start.

Say, the last NOT TO DO is to lose hope. Here is a good passage to remind us of where our hope lies. Have someone read Psalm 3:2-6.

Many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." Selah But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

Say, Many times when we do have the answer, we can do some things that reveal our character:

Ask, Have you ever tried to **Take credit/assign the blame** – this is when we allow our pride to override the truth of God.

Ask, What do you know about God's sovereignty (Sovereignty - what does that mean? Supreme power/control).

Say, Don't panic or freak out – we demonstrate that we lack faith.

Ask, Have you ever had a time when you were ready to **Stop seeking God**?

Say, Many times these come when things in life get difficult or hard to handle. We can either turn to Him believing that He is sovereign or He has lost His mojo and needs us to help Him out.

Say, sometimes we can lose sight of the purpose of following God when we don't get what we want.

Say, again we cannot **Lose hope** – it is not the end. God is not finished. (If you need more Scripture to remind you or the group that there is hope, read Romans 5:1-5.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith^[b] into this grace in which we stand, and we^[c] rejoice^[d] in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Say, The final point of Michael's sermon had to do with What to do when He answers:

Ask, does anyone remember that point.

Say, it is **Proclaim His greatness** – Woohoo! He is always faithful to Himself, so as Christ-followers, the best place for us to be is as close to Him as we can get. One of the ways we do that is by proclaiming His greatness.

Take the time to read Psalm 145. Allow time for participants to talk about the greatness of God in the way He has answered, provided, secured, challenged, and caused you to continue to trust Him as sovereign.

Close in prayer.