

40 Days of Waiting on God Recap

Questions for Community Groups Week of October 29-November 4

Hosts – you are appreciated. Thank you for preparing to host this week and for praying for your group members. This week, Michael did a “Best of” the last 40 plus days of waiting on God. This week, encourage those attending to share the learnings and reflections of this particular 40 Days emphasis. We covered a lot so you may want to move fast through the discussion to get through it all or highlight the parts where you want to camp out more.

Say, we have just been through the 40 Days of Waiting on God. It has been an exciting time as we have focused on a number of different aspects related to waiting. Tonight, we are going to spend some time reflecting on what we have learned and then spend some time reading Psalm 145 and focusing on giving praise, glory and adoration to God.

Pray (or ask someone in the group to pray) asking God to guide the time together as we share and celebrate what God is doing in our church.

Say, the first sermon in the series focused us on the waiting is the hardest part.

Ask, what has been something that has been hard for you to wait on during this 40 days emphasis?

Remind those attending how even God chose to delay how he created.

Say, While an all-powerful God could have spoken all things into existence at once, He chose to model what waiting is like.

Say, we were also taught that God is the creator of covenants. Not a contract but something greater.

Ask for participants to share how they understand the difference between a biblical covenant and a contract.

(Remind them that a covenant is kept by at least one party regardless of if the other party keeps the agreement.)

Ask, how does God prove Himself faithful by always being a promise keeping God?

Ask someone to share a time when God led them through a perfectly timed delay. **(Ask this question in a way that leads participants to focus on God and what He did or is doing rather than the focus being on them.)**

Say, Michael shared about the Benefits of waiting on God

Ask if anyone remembers those three things. Allow them to share or remind them.

- Expectancy – focusing on what God is doing and what He has yet to do that we cannot even fathom yet.
- Hope – Hope in Christ alone
- Trust – Believing that He can be trusted at all times. Even when we cannot see what lies ahead, we believe in Him and trust His methods and His end game.

Ask, how does waiting expose our character?

Say, while many times we act in ways that are unlike Christ in the waiting, waiting itself exposes those things in us so that we can address the sin in our lives.

Say, Our ability and willingness to wait reveal our character. (Be sensitive to those in the group who may be struggling with some of the character that has been revealed. Remind them that God reveals those things so that we can confess and repent of them and in fact, we are going to talk about that more in a few minutes.)

Say, while waiting we do not just have to sit around and twiddle our thumbs nor do we have to start grasping at everything trying to fill our lives with just “something to do.” In fact, here are some healthy, righteous things to do in the waiting-

- Be diligent - do those things that bring us closer to God. (Read the Word. Pray. Study God’s Word. Etc.)
- Be spotless - not perfect but no longer chasing after sin. Ask God to take the desire of turning to things to satisfy rather than God Himself.
- Be at peace – surrender your will and actions to Him.

Remind participants that waiting w/o humility is not really waiting. Humility is linked to repentance and confession.

Say, Here are the two things Michael shared with us to do to humble yourself:

1. Be thankful for what you have. What has Jesus provided? **(Allow time for participants to share what God has provided.)**

2. Be okay with things not changing. Is Jesus enough? **(Allow for responses to this as well. It is okay if there are some who are struggling with surrendering and admitting that Jesus is enough. Allow them to share, encouraging them that you and others will pray and help them move towards that surrender.)**

Say, The last sermon in the series dealt with God is waiting on us. This sermon shifted the focus from us waiting on God to what God waits on us. He is patient and willing to wait and not force us into submission but rather waits on us to surrender.

- To wait on Him by pursuing Him engaging in Bible study, prayer and other spiritual disciplines.
- To trust in everything.
- To repent of those things that are in our lives that are not like Him.

Before dismissing, take the time to read aloud either as a group or ask someone to read this Psalm related to what to do when God answers.

Share with the group that for the next few minutes we are going to proclaim God's greatness as found in Psalm 145. "I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever."

Psalms 145:1-21

Close your time in prayer, celebrating what God has done and affirming that we have not finished waiting but quite honestly are just beginning in new and exciting and yes, even frustrating ways to continue to draw us to complete surrender and dependency on Christ.