

Waiting on The Wonder of God

For the week of Dec. 2, 2018

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

GOAL: Find answers to the question, Why should I wait on God when it's difficult and when I need to make decisions? Is it really worth it?

GET GOING:

1. Spurgeon said it well, "The Lord's people have always been a waiting people." We met Simeon and Anna in Luke 2. For what were they waiting? Who else in Scripture waited on God? For what?
2. In the past when you've waited on God, what was your experience? What did you learn about Him while you waited? What growth did you see in yourself as you trusted Him?
3. We studied five promises that God makes to His children while they wait. With which promise do you most resonate? Which one have you seen God do in your life? Describe the situation and how God worked while you waited.
 - God hears us as we wait. (Psalm 40:1)
 - God responds to us as we wait. (Isaiah 64:4)
 - God protects us. (Psalm 25:3)
 - God strengthens us as we wait. (Isaiah 40:30-31)
 - God blesses us as we wait. (Psalm 37:34)

Review the verses stating each promise to give your heart courage for your current situation.

4. If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are not alone in your waiting. He has given you His Spirit to help, protect, and lead you in how to live in this season of waiting. Describe a time you have sensed His Spirit work in your life—in a decision, or conviction of sin, or comfort, or a sense of direction, etc. Pray for each other to have this unseen assurance of help. By faith, thank



God for His work in each other's life even before you see it.

KEEP GROWING:

- 5.** What makes waiting hard? Share what hurdles we face when we wait on God (rather than “solve” the situation ourselves). Do you play the “what if” game, rehearsing all the potential crises of trusting God? Do you wonder if God can really do it? Or if He'll do it? Or if He's watching at all?

- 6.** TRUE OR FALSE? God uses circumstances to expose my need for Him. The circumstances God uses are unique to our own stories. When pressure exposes our need, we can choose to say, proudly, “I'll handle this”—and the Lord lets us. Sadly, most of us don't want to “risk” trusting God until our thing isn't working. God waits for us to humble ourselves or He lets the circumstances do it for us. How has this season of waiting revealed your need for God? After this season is over, what do you hope your relationship with God will look like?

- 7.** Always ask what else could He be doing? When you're waiting on God for that “one thing”—He likely is doing so much more. Think about the sisters in John 11 who asked God to heal their brother. It seemed like Jesus had forgotten them, but what was He doing instead? Ask yourself, what else could God be doing in my life? How could this delay be strengthening me for more?

- 8.** During the sermon, you pondered the request: Pray for me as I wait on God for _____. Think to yourself how you answered that, or if you didn't have an answer, think of one now. Right now, hold that request in your hand, like you're holding water. Offer it to God again, by faith. Tell Him you trust Him to use this season of waiting to do whatever He wants in you. Ask for His help. Thank Him for increasing your faith as your trust in Him deepens. Do this yourself and, if applicable, as a group.

- 9.** The one who follows God by faith will always be asked to wait. From the perspective of a lifetime, we can see that at least as important as what we wait for is the work God wants to do in us while we wait. If we trust Him while we wait, we become certain of His love—that He wants only what is best for us. We stand by His wisdom—that He knows what is best for us and convinced of His power—that He is able to do what is best for us. Review the outline below and say aloud your intent to walk with Him by faith in this current season of waiting.



I will wait . . .

because I trust God will keep His promises.

because I trust God will sovereignly accomplish His plans.

because I trust God will lead me.

because I trust God will reveal His purposes.

because I trust God will graciously reward His servant.

*Why wait? Charles Spurgeon said it well, “we wait, because Jesus is worth waiting for.”

Bonus Challenge: South African pastor, Andrew Murray (1828-1917), offered this as a way of processing what God could be doing. Build your confidence in God by making this your own.

“In the time of [waiting] say:

First: He has brought me here; it is by His will I am in this straight place. In that I will rest.

Next: He will keep me here in His love and give me grace to behave as His child.

Then: He will make the [waiting] a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn and working in me the grace He means to bestow.

Last: In His good time, He can bring me out again—how and when He knows.

Say, “I am here.” By God’s appointment, in His keeping, under His training, for His time.

Memory Verse: *“Wait for the Lord and keep His way” (Psalm 37:34).*

