

Discussion Guide  
*The Wait: wk1 God Works While We Wait*  
December 3, 2023



Big Idea

Waiting is not wasted when we're waiting on God.



Icebreaker

Without getting all mushy & saying, “*being together with family & friends*” or “*Jesus*”, as many a super-sanctified person would say (which no one would disagree with), what is the greatest Christmas gift (physical or experiential (i.e. tickets for a trip)) that you have ever gotten? Which is the greatest Christmas gift that you have ever given?



Discussion Questions

1. As we consider the topics of “waiting” & “patience”, have you personally found over time that as conveniences & the expectations of speed in many areas of our life have increased, that your “fuse” of patience has shortened? Is this a good or a bad thing and why? In what ways are you at risk of responding when this happens? Is this a personal struggle for you? If so, what are some approaches that could help you reign that in?
2. This sermon started out by confessing & confirming that Jesus is the greatest gift ever because of the one purpose He was born for, which He followed through on. What is this one purpose we speak of? Read John 1:29 to check your answer. Now, though Jesus had this one main purpose, what are some other good & powerful things He did/does? Do you think people ever mistakenly elevate these other things over the impact of His one true purpose? What is the risk when that happens?
3. What has been the most significant &/or emotional thing you have ever had to wait for? What was that season like? What assisted you through it to get to where you are today?
4. Read Psalm 130:5-6. When you read and reflect on this passage, how does it impact your emotions & considered approach to waiting? Putting hope in ‘*what*’ appears to help the Psalmist? How could you apply what helped the Psalmist to your life in current or future seasons of waiting? What would it look like & take for that to happen?
5. Read Malachi 4:1-6 (doesn't this sound GREAT?!?!). Now read Luke 1:11-17. What (or who) connects these two passages that are approximately 400 years separated? What does this tell us about God? While we are waiting, what is God doing? How can you tangibly express TRUST in God during your personal seasons of waiting?



Concluding Question

What are some things one could personally focus on as they wait on God & His perfect timing to wither resolve a situation and/or to return once again, as He will?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer The Christmas time of year is difficult for some people due to, perhaps, the reminder of the loss of loved ones, or the struggles of familial dynamics & strife; even separation, etc.. Lift those hurting during this time of year up in prayer (even by name, if you know some that likely are in such a situation).

