

THE MAIN POINT

What we think is wasting time could be an opportunity for God to do the greatest work in your life.

Suggested Bible reading for this week:

READ :: John 16

On Sunday, Wes closed with **John 16:19–23**. Read this set of verses in the context of the entire chapter. As you read and as you consider the things you wait for, focus your attention on the power of Jesus' words when he says, "...when I see you again, you'll be full of joy."

NOTES + PRAYER REQUESTS:

LIFE groups



On Hold

Begin by watching the "Info for the Group" portion of the DVD and then here are a few questions to get you going:

__ What was your high and low from the past week?

__ Life Group ends the week of December 3, meaning Christmas parties are the following week. So with that in mind here is a question to get you started: What is your number one ingredient for a great party?

PLEASE WATCH THE DVD'S "MAIN SESSION"

INTRODUCTION

When we wait, we often feel like we're wasting time. But what if what you say is your biggest waste God says is a great work in you? This week, we'll look at how we navigate this gap between our expectations and reality while we wait.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you find yourself waiting for most often? Is it more related to people (i.e. phone call, vacation, an appointment) or things (i.e. weather, technology)?
2. On Sunday, Wes said that in society, we believe that "waiting is wasting." Do you agree or disagree with that statement?
3. Read **Psalm 37:4**. When you think of specific situations that you had to wait for something, what have you learned about yourself, about God, or about patience?
4. Sometimes we go through a season of living in the gap between our expectations and reality. In other words, we are in the gap of where we are compared to where we would like to be. Share with the group a time where this has been true in your life.
5. Whether it is a relationship, a job, a family, an event, or something else, while we wait, we are often tempted to wonder why God doesn't "just make it happen now." In what way does this assumption influence the way we view God?
6. **Discuss this quote:** "To wait on God means to pause and soberly consider our own inadequacy and the Lord's all-sufficiency, and to seek counsel and help from the Lord, and to hope in Him (Psalm 33:20-22; Isaiah 8:17)...The folly of not waiting for God is that we forfeit the blessing of having God work for us. The evil of not waiting on God is that we oppose God's will to exalt Himself in mercy." (John Piper)
7. Read **Job 40:3-5**. This was Job's response to God reminding us of how powerful and knowledgeable God is. On Sunday, Wes mentioned three ways to deal with waiting. They are: a) replace misery with gratitude, b) replace attitude with opportunity and c) replace why with who. Which of these are the most helpful OR the least helpful for you? Why?
8. While we wait on something to happen, we sometimes sit back and wait for God to act. What role do we have to play in this waiting game? How can the group support each other during the times of waiting?

MOVING FORWARD

According to history, God always does what he promises. He has never forgotten his people and he will not start with you. With this in mind, will you commit to consistent prayer, asking God to encourage you as he prepares you to best glorify him? As you draw near to God, He will draw near to you.

BE SURE TO PRAY TOGETHER AS A GROUP...

- __ What are some things going on in your life that need prayer?
- __ Christmas parties are coming up during the week of **December 10**. Please take time this week to discuss the details!