

This weekend we learned that times of waiting can be a powerful season, where we experience significant transformation in our lives. We'll unpack that further in this study.

PAUSE

As you begin this study, take some time to read these verses a few times. Pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to a new understanding of waiting.

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. ... He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Psalm 40:1, 3

STUDY

1. What are one or two key insights or takeaways you gained from the weekend message?
2. In the weekend message, Michael said that one of the key reasons why God calls us to wait is because it's often in those times that God does some of His deepest work in our hearts.
 - a. How do you think God uses waiting as a way of growing and maturing us?
 - b. How have you personally experienced growth through seasons of waiting in your life?
3. Read through the following verses from the Old Testament, slowly and carefully, and write down any key words, phrases, or emotions that jump out to you about waiting.

• **Psalm 27:7-14**

• **Psalm 33:18-22**

• Psalm 40:1-4

• Isaiah 40:27-31 (Read in the ESV translation)

a. Which of these passages do you feel drawn to most? Why?

4. This weekend we learned that *Waiting ... Is Hard*. When you reflect on your past or current season of waiting, what were some of the honest difficulties you experienced in waiting on the Lord?

5. For many, one of the most difficult aspects of waiting is that it challenges what we have believed to be true about God's character. In his book, *Waiting Isn't a Waste*, author Mark Vroegop makes this statement:

At a deeper level, waiting reveals what we believe about ourselves and about God. It challenges our dreams, expectations, and abilities. Waiting is a frequent and often painful reminder that we are not in control. God is. The more I've studied and practiced waiting on God, the more convinced I am that waiting tests what you believe.

a. Have you ever found that times of waiting challenge what you believe about God? For example, have they ever challenged your belief that God is good? Provider? Listening? Present? Loving? Compassionate?

b. Have these times of waiting ever tempted you to "take matters into your own hands" instead of waiting on God? If so, explain.

6. The Old Testament prophet Habakkuk wrestled with God during a time of waiting. God's people in Judah had been suffering for years under evil leaders and oppressive foreign empires. Habakkuk had been praying for an end to this pain. **Read Habakkuk 1:2-4.**

a. What emotions do you see and feel as you read Habakkuk's complaint?

b. Habakkuk models radical authenticity. How can praying with similar honesty be transformative in our lives?

7. The final chapter of Habakkuk is a psalm. In it, Habakkuk recalls how God has fought for Israel in the past. He uses vivid imagery from nature and battle to describe God's protection. **Read chapter 3** and jot down anything that jumps out to you.

- a. Habakkuk also reflects on God's character and remembers how He saved Israel in the past. How can *remembering* what God has done for us in the past help us when we are struggling in times of waiting?
- b. **Reread verses 17-19.** In your own words, how would you paraphrase what Habakkuk is saying? Write your paraphrase as a personal declaration if you are currently going through a season of waiting.

RESPOND

Michael ended the message by asking two important questions: *What ... Are You Waiting For? And Are You ... Willing To Wait?*

Spend some time in unrushed prayer over these two questions. Be authentic as you pray. God doesn't need you to be "good"; rather, He invites you to be real as you pray. Write down anything the Lord is saying to you as you pray, and be willing to share it with your Life Group and invite them to pray with you.