2026-11-22 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide
Based on the Sermon: "What Are You Waiting For?"
Overview

This sermon explores how traditions, both personal and religious, can shape our behavior without us fully understanding why. The pastor challenges believers to examine their lives through the lens of Scripture rather than habit or inherited practice, and calls the church to embrace wholesome thinking, openness to the Holy Spirit, and active discipleship.

Key Takeaways

Many of our habits and beliefs, spiritual and otherwise, are inherited traditions we have never examined or questioned.

Jesus commands believers in Matthew 28:18-20 to make disciples as they go through everyday life, not just in formal ministry settings.

In 2 Peter 3, Peter connects God's creative work through water to the flood of Noah, and ultimately to baptism, revealing how Scripture interprets Scripture.

In 1 Peter 3:15-21, Peter describes baptism not as a physical washing but as a pledge of a good conscience toward God, made possible through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God's patience in delaying judgment is not a sign that nothing is required of us. It is an invitation to repentance and transformation.

The story of Paul's conversion in Acts 22 ends with the question, "What are you waiting for?" This question applies to every area of obedience and growth in the Christian life.

Discussion Questions
Opening

The pastor told a story about brushing his teeth and how small habits are passed down through families without anyone questioning them. What is a habit or tradition from your upbringing, either at home or in church, that you have never stopped to examine? Where did it come from?

When you hear the word "tradition," do you tend to think of it positively or negatively? How does the sermon shape or challenge that instinct?

Going Deeper

The pastor referenced Matthew 28:18-20 and emphasized that the command to make disciples was given not just to the apostles but to all believers. How does that change the way you think about your own role in the church and in your community?

In 2 Peter 3:5-6, Peter points out that people "deliberately forget" what God has done. What does it look like in practical terms to deliberately forget God? Have you seen that pattern in your own life?

The pastor described the water of Noah's flood as a symbol pointing toward baptism, drawing from 1 Peter 3:20-21. How does understanding baptism as a pledge of conscience toward God, rather than just a ritual, change how you think about it?

Peter writes in 2 Peter 3:1 that his purpose in writing is to "stimulate wholesome thinking." Why do you think wholesome or spiritual thinking does not come naturally to us? What disciplines or practices help cultivate it?

The pastor said, "I don't want to misteach you," and acknowledged that he will be held to a stricter judgment as a teacher. How does that kind of accountability affect the way you receive teaching? How does it affect the way you share your faith with others?

The sermon ends with the question Ananias asked Paul in Acts 22:16: "What are you waiting for?" If you applied that question honestly to your own life

right now, what area would it point to?

Reflecting on Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season

The pastor opened by encouraging the congregation to make the Thanksgiving holiday a holy day by letting family members see Christ in them. What does it look like to carry Christ into a family gathering without becoming "starched and stuffy," as he put it?

He also challenged the group to consider whether they have taught their children and grandchildren more about Christmas traditions than about Christ himself. How would you honestly answer that question for your own family?

Practical Applications

Consider choosing one or more of the following this week:

Write out a short prayer asking God to show you one area of your life He would like to change. Sit with His answer before moving on.

Read through Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Peter 3:15-21, and Acts 22:6-16 on your own and note any observations that the sermon raised for you.

Identify one person in your life who does not know Christ. Pray specifically for an opportunity during the Thanksgiving or Christmas season to share not what they should do, but what Christ has done for you.

Look up the phrase "in Christ" in the New Testament using a Bible app or concordance. Make a list of what Scripture says is available to those who are in Christ and reflect on what that means for your daily life.

If baptism is something you have been putting off or have questions about, bring those questions to your pastor or a trusted spiritual mentor this week.

Closing Reflection

The pastor closed by saying the greatest gift we could offer Christ this Christmas season is to become a gift given back to him. As a group, take a few moments of silence and then share one word or phrase that describes what you sense God is inviting you toward in this season.

Close in prayer, asking God for open minds, childlike faith, and the courage to stop waiting.