

# ISAIAH: Trusting God's Promises

Fourth Week in Lent: March 15, 2026



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## Small Group Guide: Understanding Isaiah – Waiting Upon the Lord

### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to help you hear His voice, learn patience, and trust Him more deeply through this study.

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### Icebreaker Question

What was the hardest thing you ever had to wait for? How did the waiting feel? What was the outcome?

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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding Our Culture of Impatience

1. The sermon mentioned many examples of how we avoid waiting (grocery lines, internet speeds, streaming services, etc.). Which of these resonated most with you? Why do you think our culture has become so impatient?
2. How has technology changed your expectations about waiting? In what ways might this affect your spiritual life?
  - a. Tyre trusted its wealth and global trade network for security (Devotional page 22 -Isaiah 23). What modern things give people a false sense of security today?
  - b. How might these make it harder for us to truly wait on God?

#### Historical Background

3. Why do pride and self-confidence often make it difficult for people to trust God? In what ways can success or comfort create spiritual complacency? Isaiah says those who trust God "will not panic." What might that look like in real life? (Read Isaiah 28:1, 28:16)
4. Why is it possible to appear religious while still being spiritually distant from God? What are some modern ways people can honor God "with their lips" but not with their hearts? How does genuine trust in God go deeper than outward religious behavior? (Read Isaiah 29:13-15)
5. Why do people often look for human solutions before seeking God's guidance? What might "going down to Egypt" look like in our lives today? When facing fear or

uncertainty, what makes it difficult to wait on God instead of rushing into action? (Read Isaiah 30:1-2, 31:1)

6. Why do people sometimes turn to God only after their own plans fail? What does Hezekiah's prayer teach us about trusting God in crisis? How might this story encourage someone who feels overwhelmed by a situation today? (Read Isaiah 37:14-17, 36) Why do you think God sometimes waits until the last moment to act?

## Personal Application

7. The sermon shared two paths people take when facing prolonged suffering:
  - a. Walking away from God in disappointment
  - b. Leaning into faith and trusting God more deeply

Why do you think people respond so differently? What factors influence which path someone takes? (Read Isaiah 29:15, Devotional page 27)

People hide from God rather than face their sin. Why do people sometimes distance themselves from God during difficult seasons instead of drawing closer to him? What does honest faith look like when we are struggling?

8. Isaiah criticized the leaders of Jerusalem for strengthening their military defenses while failing to look to God for help (Read Isaiah 22:8-11, Devotional page 21). Why do people often turn first to their own solutions instead of seeking God? In what areas of life do we tend to trust our own "arsenal" rather than the Lord?
9. The pastor said, "Waiting upon the Lord is a spiritual discipline, and it is not passive." What's the difference between passive resignation and active waiting on God?
10. Reflect on peace while waiting. The devotional emphasizes perfect peace for those who trust God even before final deliverance (Read Isaiah 26:3, Devotional page 23). What do you think it means to experience peace while still waiting for God to act? How does trust change the experience of waiting?

## Deeper Reflection

11. Brennan Manning wrote about "Ruthless Trust" - a certainty deep down that "it's going to be all right" even when life is difficult. Do you have this kind of trust? What would help you develop it?
12. The sermon mentioned that waiting on the Lord means:
  - a. Trusting God is at work even when you can't see it
  - b. Continuing to pray when you don't have answers
  - c. Continuing to worship when life is difficult
  - d. Trusting God's story for your life isn't finished

Which of these is hardest for you right now? Why?

## Current Circumstances

13. Where in your life right now are you being called to wait on the Lord? What does waiting look like in your specific situation?

14. The sermon stated: "The promise of Isaiah 40 is not that life will always unfold according to our plans. The promise is that God will give you strength." How does this reframe your expectations of God? (Read Isaiah 40:27-31)
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## Key Takeaways

1. **Waiting on God is active, not passive** - It requires intentional trust, prayer, and faithfulness even when we don't see results.
  2. **God has not forgotten you** - Even in exile, even in suffering, God is present and working according to His purposes.
  3. **Strength comes from trusting God** - Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, not necessarily have their circumstances immediately changed.
  4. **Your story isn't finished** - If you're still here, God has a purpose for your life, even if you can't see it yet.
  5. **Lent is our time to prepare the highway** - We prepare our hearts through repentance, yielding to God, and making ourselves available to Him.
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## Practical Applications

Choose at least one to practice this week:

### Individual Practices

- **Create a "waiting journal"** - Write down what you're waiting for from God and record moments when you see His faithfulness, even in small ways.
  - **Set a "waiting reminder"** - When you find yourself impatient (in traffic, in line, waiting for a webpage to load), use it as a trigger to pray and practice trusting God.
  - **Practice Sabbath rest** - Intentionally slow down one day this week. Resist the urge to be productive and simply rest in God's presence.
  - **Practice silent prayer** - Spend 10-15 minutes in silence each day, not asking for anything, just being present with God.
  - **Keep a gratitude list** - Each day, write three things you're grateful for, training yourself to see God's faithfulness even while waiting.
  - **Visit someone who is waiting** - Reach out to someone who is in a season of waiting (illness, unemployment, grief) and simply be present with them.
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## Closing Prayer

Faithful God, You are the One who never grows weary or faint. When our strength fails and our patience runs thin, teach us to wait upon you. Help us trust your promises even when we cannot see the outcome. Quiet our anxious hearts, strengthen our faith, and remind us that you are always at work. Renew our strength, O Lord, so that we may walk in your ways, serve your people, and follow You with courage and hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.