

Small Group Guide: IGNITING YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH - Keep Believing While Waiting on God

Opening Question What is one thing you are not very patient waiting for—traffic, long lines, slow internet, food delivery, doctor's offices, or something else?

Opening Prayer *God, thank You for bringing us together. As we talk about faith, waiting, and trusting You, help us to be honest, encouraged, and open to what You want to teach us. Give us wisdom from Your Word and help us support one another well. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

Waiting is one of the hardest parts of faith. Pastor Dan reminded us that many of us are okay when God says “yes” or even “no,” but we struggle when God says “wait.”

Faith often moves through a process. Abraham's story shows six phases of faith:

Dream – God gives a promise or vision.

Decision – We choose whether to obey and move forward.

Delay – Time passes, and we are tempted to “help God.”

Difficulties – Things may go from bad to worse.

Dead End – God may ask us to surrender what we love most.

Deliverance – God provides in His way and His timing.

Delays are not wasted. God often uses waiting seasons to build character, grow faith, and shape us spiritually.

Faith does not deny reality. Abraham faced the facts—his age and Sarah's inability to have children—but he viewed those facts through faith in God's promises.

We are called to focus on what God can do, not just what we can do. What seems impossible to us is still possible with God.

God's deliverance can come in different ways. Sometimes God changes the circumstances, sometimes He changes us personally, and ultimately, for believers, He brings final deliverance through heaven.

We can rejoice before we see the answer. Faith thanks God in anticipation, trusting His character and promises.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:11.**

The verse says God “does everything right and on time,” but people cannot fully understand what He is doing (NCV). Why do you think it is so hard to trust God’s timing when we cannot understand His plan?

2. **Read Genesis 12:1-4.**

Abraham had to leave what was familiar before he saw the promise fulfilled. What does this passage teach us about obedience when we do not yet know all the details?

3. **Read Romans 4:17-21.**

Pastor Dan said Abraham focused on what God could do, not just what he could do. What stands out to you about Abraham’s faith in this passage? How did he respond when the promise seemed impossible?

4. **Read Romans 4:19-21.**

Abraham faced the facts without letting the facts destroy his faith. What is the difference between denying reality and viewing reality through faith?

5. **Read Hebrews 11:17-19.**

Abraham trusted God even when asked to surrender Isaac. What does this passage show us about trusting God with what matters most to us?

6. **Pastor Dan talked about the danger of trying to “help God” during a delay.** Why do you think delays often tempt us to take control or cut corners?

7. **Pastor Dan said faith does not deny the facts but looks at them through God’s promises.**

What is the difference between honest faith and pretending there is no problem?

8. **Pastor Dan mentioned three kinds of deliverance: circumstantial, personal, and ultimate deliverance in heaven.** How can remembering these different kinds of deliverance help us trust God more deeply? Why is it important to remember that God may not always change the situation, but He can still work powerfully in us?

Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

1. **Identify your current “faith phase.”**

Spend time this week asking, “Am I in a dream, decision, delay, difficulty, dead end, or deliverance season?”

2. **Memorize a promise of God.**

Choose a verse from this study and return to it when your mind starts to worry or spiral.

3. **Practice honest faith.**

Name the reality of a situation without denying it, but then pray over it through the lens of what God can do.

4. **Thank God before the answer comes.**

Each day this week, thank God for His faithfulness, even if you have not yet seen the outcome.

5. **Surrender what you are tempted to control.**

Ask God to show you one area where you may be trying to “help Him,” and intentionally place it back in His hands.

Memory Verse for This Week

Romans 4:20-21 (NIV)

“Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Closing Prayer *Father, thank You for reminding us that You are faithful, even when we are waiting.*

Help us trust You in the delays, difficulties, and dead ends of life. Teach us to focus on what You can do, to rely on Your promises, and to walk by faith instead of fear. Give us courage to surrender what we need to release and help us grow more like Jesus. In His name, amen.