

LOVED WHAT YOU HEARD ON SUNDAY? WANT TO GO DEEPER? THE LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE WILL HELP YOU UNPACK WHAT YOU HEARD ON SUNDAY WHILE DIVING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD.

Life Group Study Guide

1. WHAT IS ONE THING YOU HAVE ZERO PATIENCE WAITING FOR?
2. HAS WAITING EVER STRUCK FEAR INTO YOU BEFORE? WHAT WAS THE SITUATION? WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME? HAS THAT EXPERIENCE AFFECTED YOU MOVING FORWARD?
3. WHAT INSIGHTS, QUESTIONS, OR KEY OBSERVATIONS DO YOU HAVE FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE?

Waiting is a normal part of life. Yet there are times where we find ourselves waiting longer than we would like. During our seasons of waiting we can choose to be overcome by fear of the unknown or we can use it as an opportunity to be strengthened in our faith. The following verses give us a biblical perspective of how God uses seasons of waiting to prepare us and strengthen us for the Christian life.

- *Isaiah 40:30-31*
- *Lamentations 3:25 - 33*
- *James 5:7-11*
- *2 Peter 3:8-13*

WHAT DO YOU HEAR GOD COMMUNICATING TO YOU THROUGH THESE VERSES? WHAT INSIGHTS STAND OUT TO YOU?

WHAT PROMISES DO WE READ FROM THESE SCRIPTURES FOR THOSE THAT CHOOSE TO WAIT ON GOD, RATHER THAN ACTING ON OUR OWN BEHALF?

WHAT DO THESE VERSES TELL US WE SHOULD BE DOING DURING SEASONS OF WAITING?

HOW DOES THE ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE OF JESUS' RETURN AND HEAVEN AS OUR ETERNAL HOME CHANGE HOW WE RESPOND TO WAITING IN THE PRESENT?

Digging Deeper

1. *On Sunday Steven revealed that in a waiting season God often leads us to take a step of faith, and do the hard thing. Is there anything God is asking you to step into? What do you need to do to take that step of faith?*
2. *Joseph acted as an agent of God for the prisoners. He connected the prisoners to God by interpreting their dreams. Who in your life can you be an agent of God to? What steps do you need to take to help connect them to Jesus?*

LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS: THE STORY OF JOSEPH

OCTOBER 16, 2016 // GENESIS 39:20-23 – 40:1-23



“ARE YOU WILLING TO WAIT?”

WAITING CAN EITHER **STRIKE FEAR** OR **STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH**.

Genesis 39:20-23 *But while Joseph was there in the prison, ² the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²² So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. ²³ The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.*

HOW TO KEEP HOPE IN A SEASON OF WAITING:

WHAT MAN INTENDS FOR **EVIL**, GOD WILL USE FOR **GOOD**.

Genesis 40:1-4 *Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. ² Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³ and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. ⁴ The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.*

BE LIKE JOSEPH AND **SERVE**.

Genesis 40:7-19 *So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?"⁸ "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."⁹ So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me...*

¹⁰ and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. ¹¹ Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

¹² "This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. ¹³ Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴ But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. ¹⁵ I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon." ¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. ¹⁷ In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head." ¹⁸ "This is what it means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days. ¹⁹ Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale your body on a pole. And the birds will eat away your flesh."

BE LIKE JOSEPH AND BECOME AN **AGENT OF GOD**.

Luke 16:10 *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."*

WHEN WAITING ON GOD, **DO THE HARD THING**.

- Matthew 14:22-33
- Joshua 1:9
- Proverbs 3:5-6

Genesis 40:20-23 *Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: ²¹ He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand— ²² but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. ²³ The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.*

REMEMBER: THOUGH MAN FORGETS, GOD NEVER **FORGETS**.