

Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of June 13, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connect

- What's the most important thing going on in your life right now?
- What's your craziest waiting story?

Engage the Bible - Read <u>1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Samuel 5:4-5, Psalm 27:14, Psalm 143:7-8</u>.

The Context

Real Waiting

We are going to take a step forward in David's Journey and talk about something no one ever likes talking about. The wait. The real wait that happened between the time he was anointed and the time he was appointed king. Those two events have 20 chapters and approximately 20 years before they happen. Think about that...20 years of waiting. Most of us feel stuck in the wait, we feel like God might be silent in the wait, and we sometimes feel tempted to just stop the wait. You can be appointed and anointed but still have to wait.

We can be tempted to bypass the wait though and the end goal that God might be producing in us and trade it for instant gratification. We can have a tendency to take the easy route, to take the short cut, to choose what we want, when we want. What we don't always understand is that even then the law of diminishing returns happens and we are never satisfied. This is true at so many levels in our lives especially when the heat is turned up, when it's hard, when you feel like just hitting the exit door and quitting. We need to remember though as Dave shared Sunday:

- Two great fertilizers for faith are suffering and waiting.
- God taught David to worship in the wait.
- Just because God feels silent doesn't mean He is absent.

This last year has trained us to believe it's okay to just cancel anything we want. We can give up, or take the easy way out instead of taking the long way. Yet often the easy way is the way of the enemy or the flesh, not the way of the Lord. It will often cost us.

What if you miss out on becoming who God wants you to be because you skipped the waiting?

- Don't give up what you want most for what you want now.
- When it's not time you can't force it, when it is time you can't stop it.

Discuss & Apply

- 1. How did Sunday's message encourage or challenge you? The scripture readings?
- 2. How has waiting on God paid off in your life? How has "forcing things" brought negative consequences to your life?
- 3. How has God "shown up" for you in the past? How could reflecting on all that Jesus has done for you help you in your waiting?
- 4. Where have you seen Jesus working in your life? How has waiting been a part of this?
- 5. What has God taught you in suffering and waiting in your life? How do expectations affect the waiting?
- 6. How could spending ten minutes each day thanking God for all the past challenges that were temporary help you in your waiting today?
- 7. What's the best advice about waiting you were ever given? Who was it from? How has it helped you?
- 8. What are you waiting on God for right now?
- 9. Who could you help or encourage that you know is in a waiting period right now?
- 10. Read the following passages and discuss how these help you understand more about waiting with God. <u>Micah 7:7</u>, <u>Lamentations</u> <u>3:25</u>, <u>Psalm 37:7</u>, <u>2</u> <u>Corinthians 4:16-18</u>;

End your group time in prayer.