

Discussion Guide

The Wait: wk2 While We Are Waiting on God, We Are Waiting with God

December 10, 2023



Big Idea

While we are waiting on God, we are waiting with Him and He with us.



Icebreaker

What is the most fun or creative wedding proposal you have heard of?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 1:18. Recap some things from the sermon regarding what the relationship between Mary and Joseph was probably like based upon the cultural norms of their day. How was perhaps their relationship different from engaged couples in our culture today?
2. Continuing to consider Matthew 1:18, what are layers of the hard news that Joseph finds himself waiting through? What is an example you could share of some multi-layered hard news you have had to deal with, or are dealing with?
3. Read Matthew 1:19. What hard decision did Joseph arrive at per this verse? What kinds of things did he weigh in arriving at it? What is an example you could share of a hard decision you have had to arrive at in your life? In it, was there a balance of *truth* & *grace* that you chose to consider? If not, should you have? When you face hard news that leads to making hard decisions why may it be a good idea to consider and wade through the tension of balancing *truth* & *grace*?
4. Read Matthew 1:20-25. What dilemma or tension does Joseph now find himself in and why? What is an example you could share from your life where you had made a decision only to then receive additional guidance/direction from God that caused you to pause and perhaps change your original decision? How was that additional direction/guidance from God revealed to you? In the moment, did you like receiving it, or not? Did you obey it, or no? How did it turn out in the end?
5. Continuing to consider Matthew 1:20-25. How does one balance *making decisions/moving forward* and *waiting on God* without getting stuck in indecision? NOTE: There are no perfect; formulaic answers to this. But what are some aspects that can help us to *not rush into something* but to also *not wait inappropriately too long* before making & acting upon a decision. What has experience shown you in regard to this?



Concluding Question

Read Matthew 1:23, Psalm 46, and John 14:15-17. These verses all accentuate the fact that God is always present, including in the time of waiting with us. When John Wesley was close to death he is recorded as saying, "*The best of all is, God is with us.*" Why do you think such a great man of God would include these words as some of his last? Do you find encouragement in knowing & remembering that while you wait through hard news, hard decisions, & hard directives that you are waiting with God and He with you? If yes, how can this impact your life this week?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer Pray for those who feel lonely & disconnected this Christmas season; that they would be exposed to the truth that God is with & for them. And that they can be with Him, shall they choose.