



DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 26/29, 2018

Disappointed with Waiting

BIG IDEA: When you are disappointed sometimes the only thing we can do is wait upon the Lord.

GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

My Story.

An encounter with Jesus leaves a story to tell. Share yours at valleycreek.org/MyStory.

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KEY VERSE

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Psalms 33:20

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Take time this week to express thanks for the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Having hope in the midst of disappointment is believing in the goodness of God despite unmet expectations. Unresolved disappointment will lead to a defeated life. If we are going to hold onto hope in the disappointment of life, we must learn how to deal with disappointment with waiting. When we are waiting for our circumstances to change, we have two choices: we can get angry, give up, passively wait by numbing ourselves with things of this world, or we can hold onto hope by waiting upon the Lord.

1. Don't give up. God always comes through in His promises. (Psalm 27:14, Psalm 38:15) When our circumstances aren't changing, we tend to want to make them change. Don't make major life decisions in the valley of disappointment wait on the Lord. Hold on to hope and the truth that He is kind and gracious. No matter what we are waiting for, God is our hope. (Psalm 33:20) When we don't know why the circumstance is happening or when it will end, waiting on the Lord is tangible trust. (Psalm 62:5)
2. Actively wait by turning our attention to the goodness of God. (Genesis 40:1-4) When we are disappointed with waiting, we can turn to the finished work of Jesus. Remembering that Jesus defeated sin, death, and the grave gives us hope. Sometimes when we are working through the disappointments of life, things go quiet and all we can do is wait upon the Lord. There is freedom in the midst of waiting when our attention is on the Lord.

DISCUSSION

1. Whatever we focus on grows in our heart. When you are going through disappointment, do you focus on your circumstance or Jesus? If not on Jesus, what are some ways you can shift your attention? (See points #2)
2. God uses circumstances to grow our relationship with Him. Tell of a time when you had to wait on the Lord through a disappointing circumstance and what God did in you during the waiting.
3. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
4. What is your next step?