Starter:
Have you ever had your phone battery die while you were on a call and had to wait for it to charge? Did you start getting anxious or impatient and began to wonder why it was taking so long? Can anyone relate?

Many of us don’t like to wait. We often get frustrated waiting in line at the grocery store or waiting behind the slow car in the fast lane. Did you have to wait for something this week or even today? Have your group share a few simple examples.

It seems like we are often in a rush to move on to the next thing or place, but can this mindset carry over into our spiritual lives with us rushing to the next big thing? Let’s take a look at why being in God’s waiting room (the season of time between a prayer and the receiving) can be important and what the bible says about waiting.

Discussion points:

- Being in God’s waiting room can be difficult.

Habakkuk 1:1-4 gives us an idea of how discouraged Habakkuk felt when he cried out to God.

Another example can be found in John 11:20-21.

Mary and Martha were waiting on Jesus to come and heal their brother Lazarus. When Jesus finally showed up, He is accused of taking too long.

It can be discouraging to not receive an answer to prayer. However, we must be careful not to think God doesn’t care or that He is not responding because He is mad at us. He loves us and He works within his own timeframe because He can see the bigger picture and what we truly need. Psalm 18:30 says that God’s ways are perfect. If God’s ways are perfect then we can trust that whatever He does and whatever His timing will also be perfect. He has a plan and a purpose for everything (Habakkuk 3:1-2; Jeremiah 29:11).

- God always has good reasons to make us wait. It is one of God’s tools to develop his people.

  • It reveals what is in our hearts.

Do we find ourselves constantly talking about the problem rather than the problem solver? Are we trusting in our Provider while we wait for the provision? How do we show God we trust Him?

Thoughts or comments?

Patience is one way of showing God we trust in Him. Author and speaker, Joyce Meyer, often says “Patience is not the ability to wait but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting.” What does a patient person look and sound like? Have your group share a few examples.
• **Obeying God while you are in the waiting room influences others.**

Read John 11:20-45.

Mary remained in the house and waited (v.20). When she heard that Jesus had asked for her, she sprang up quickly and to went to Him (v.29). How did those around Mary respond when they saw how hastily Mary had risen and gone out? What does verse 45 say was the outcome? Others observe how we respond when God is calling and some may follow (Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 10:17; 1 Peter 2:12; Matthew 5:16-19).

Wouldn’t the waiting room be worth souls being saved? God is worth waiting for.

• **It builds anticipation, which leads into gratitude and transformation of character.**

We tend to appreciate things the longer we have to wait for them. **Think about the last time you waited for something and finally got it. How did you feel? Have members of your group share an example.** (i.e.: finally getting the answer to a prayer, being able to make that last payment on the car, owning a new home, finding love, kids finally getting their Christmas gifts, etc.)

The waiting season transforms our character. Moses waited 40 years before God came to him. God used this time of waiting to transform his character. He was an impulsive and impatient young man who, given a second chance years later, he opted to do it God’s way and in God's time. He was transformed and praised God.

**Take a few minutes now (or later) to praise God during this waiting season.** It helps to thank God for what He has already given us and it builds anticipation for what is to come!

• **It builds intimacy and dependency upon God.**

Waiting upon the Lord is important because it builds a stronger relationship with Him. God has the answer to every situation; however, there is no other way to know the answer than spending time with Him.

Talking with God is essential for spiritual survival. It is also the only way to know what direction He wants to lead you in, what people He wants you to influence, what He is protecting you from, and what He is saying to you! Pastor Mark talked about the importance of going to that quiet place with an open heart, open bible and bended knee in order to hear from God.

**Take a moment to reflect and consider what kind of relationship you would like with God. What would you change in our relationship with God and what changes can you begin today?**

**Diving Deeper:**

Verses to meditate on if you find yourself in God’s waiting room…
Matthew 18:20; Colossians 4:2; Romans 12:12; Luke 1:37.