

Journey CHURCH

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Session 6 Leader Guide

BELIEVING WHILE YOU'RE WAITING

Have you ever been in a hurry when God wasn't? One of the most difficult things to do in life is to sit in God's waiting room. When you worship an eternal God, sometimes it can feel like you're waiting for an eternity.

The Six Phases of Faith

- Phase One: _____

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation.'" GENESIS 12:1-2 (NIV)

- Phase Two: _____

"So Abram left, as the Lord had told him." GENESIS 12:4 (GW)

A dream without a decision is worthless.

- Phase Three: _____

"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children." GENESIS 16:1 (NIV)

- Phase Four: _____

"Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" GENESIS 17:17 (NIV)

- Phase Five: _____

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"Take your son, your only son, whom you love-Isaac-and ... sacrifice him there as a burnt offering." GENESIS 22:2 (NIV)

- Phase Six: _____

"Abraham! Abraham! ... Do not lay a hand on the boy ... Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide."

GENESIS 21:11-14 (NIV)

How to Keep Believing While You're Waiting on God

- Remember _____.

The situation may be out of your control but it's not out of God's control.

"Abraham believed [in] the God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing." ROMANS 4:17 (NCV)

"Anything is possible if you have faith." MARK 9:23 (TLB)

"What is impossible with man is possible with God." LUKE 18:27 (NIV)

- Rely on _____.

"When hope was dead within him, [Abraham] went on hoping in faith, believing that he would become 'the father of many nations.' He relied on the word of God." ROMANS 4:18 (PHILLIPS)

Recognize _____.

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"Without weakening in his faith, he [Abraham] faced the fact that his body was as good as dead...and that Sarah's womb was also dead...Yet he did not waver through unbelief."
ROMANS 4:19-20 (NIV)

"Through faith he regarded the facts." ROMANS 4:19 (GW)

Faith is not ignoring reality or pretending a problem does not exist. Faith is facing a hopeless situation without being discouraged by it.

- Rejoice _____.

Joyfully expect God to act in your life, even if it's not the way you planned.

"Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything he promised." ROMANS 4:20-21 (TLB)

Three Kinds of Deliverance

- _____ deliverance.

In this type of deliverance God miraculously changes the situation.

- _____ deliverance.

In this type of deliverance God doesn't change the circumstance; he changes you.

- _____ deliverance.

If you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ, ultimately he will deliver you to heaven where there is no sorrow, no suffering, no sadness, and no pain. That is God's ultimate deliverance.

"We rejoice in hope of the glory of God." ROMANS 5:2 (ESV)

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"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
JOHN 14:6 (NIV)

Jesus can take a hopeless end and turn it into an endless hope. He may not deliver you in the way you think he should, but he will deliver you in the way he knows is best.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Rick said the first thing to do while you're waiting on God is to "remember what God can do." What miracles has God already done in your life? How has he answered your prayers in the past? What did you learn about God in the process? Share stories of God's faithfulness with your group.
2. Which phase of faith are you in right now? What do you think God is trying to teach you through it, and how does he want you to respond?
3. What is the most meaningful lesson you have learned through this study of Daring Faith? What difference will that lesson make in your life?
4. How have the people in your group helped strengthen your faith?

LIVING OH PURPOSE

5. Worship: As the old hymn says, "Count your blessings." Remembering the things God has done in the past will build your faith for your current situation. Take ten minutes during your quiet time tomorrow and make a list of all the things God has done for you. Write them down. Then tell him thanks. You will be amazed by what it does for your faith.