

Fulfilled

FULFILLED, PART 2: WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Perhaps you are in a season of life where you are desperate for answers. Life has not gone in the direction that you planned, and you are searching, longing, and reaching out. Perhaps you are trying to figure out what's next. You may have been taken completely by surprise at the events of life, and you are hocked, scared and unsure of what to do. You are silently waiting, too afraid to move forward—to wounded to look back.

BIG IDEA: Nothing is impossible with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Kim said, "One of the parts of the job that is very important is my communication with the team. I have to make sure they know what is coming up each week. Sometimes I ace this. And other times...? Well, let's just say that at other times I find myself scrambling, and I do not work and ahead and communicate as far in advance as I would like. During those times, my team experiences something that no one likes- and even makes a few of them nervous. They experience silence.

1. Have you experienced silence in an area where you work or serve?
2. How do you handle it? Do you go in search of answers? Do you wait it out? Why or Why Not?
3. Are you in a season of life where you are searching for answers? How are you handling it? Are you nervous? Are you seeking advice? Are you going to God with it?
4. What does this verse mean to you? Does it give you hope?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Galatians 4:4.*

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.

Galatians 4:4 (NLT)

6. Here in this verse Paul, the writer of the book of Galatians, Paul lets us know that when God sent His Son, Jesus, He did so, at just the right time—when the time had reach is fullness. Why is this so important?
7. *Read Galatians 4:4 from another translation—the English Standard Version.*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.

Galatians 4:4 (ESV)

8. The ESV has some different wording than the NLT. What difference or connotation do you pick up from each of these translations?
9. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Deuteronomy 6:5.*

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (NLT)

10. What was the requirement or command that God gave His people after He made the promise to make them a great nation? Why do you think this was so important to Him?

11. What other command do we see added to this verse when we read it in the New Testament?
12. What was the result of the Israelites not keeping the commands that came with the promise?
13. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 1:6-8.*

Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old. One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week.

Luke 1:6-8 (NLT)

14. How does the Bible describe Zechariah and Elizabeth?

Here is a couple that had done everything right, yet they had never been blessed with a child. No doubt they had prayed, hoped and dreamed of a day when a child would be born to them, but in the end? There was only waiting and silence.

15. So many couples today face the struggle of infertility. How do we love and support them? How does the promise fulfilled in the life of Zechariah and Elizabeth offer hope?

16. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 1:37.*

For nothing is impossible with God. Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Luke 1:37-38 (CEV)

17. What do you think of Mary's response after the Angel told her all that was going to happen? Do you think you would have responded the same way?

18. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Matthew 1:18-21.*

Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:18-21 (NLT)

19. How do you think Joseph handled the news of Mary being pregnant? What sort of ridicule might he have faced? How do you think his family and friends responded?

20. With whom can you most identify in the Christmas Story? Mary? Joseph? Zechariah and Elizabeth? How about the Shepherds or the Wise Men? What part of their story speaks to you?

21. How does Luke 1:37—which is also the big idea—resonate in your life? Do you believe it to be true? Why or Why Not? What are you waiting for?

MOVING FORWARD

As we have looked at the lives of four ordinary people who loved God and lived for Him- we see that even though the details and circumstances of their lives did not turn out how any of them ever thought they would- God had a plan. In the searching, in the praying, in the longing, and even in the silence – He was still there.

He is still here for you today. And at the exact right time- when the FULLNESS of time has come- He will reveal His plan. In the meantime, you can believe His promise and trust His faithfulness. Kim suggested 6 things that you can do while you wait:

- *Continue in your relationship with God:* You cannot expect to see his faithfulness if you give up.
- *Read His Word:* There is no substitute for reading the Bible every day. It will change your life!
- *Pray:* Talk to God about all the you are thinking and feeling. He can handle it.
- *Worship Him:* Do whatever it is that draws you to a place of concentrated focus of who He is.
- *Surround yourself with a community of others who believe in God:* You need people who also need God and live their lives for Him. Find a group. Makes friends.
- *Set Your Heart and Your Hope On Him:* Remind yourself of who HE IS and what HE WILL DO.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

"For nothing is impossible with God."

Luke 1:37 (CEV)