

WHEN LIFE ISN'T FAIR

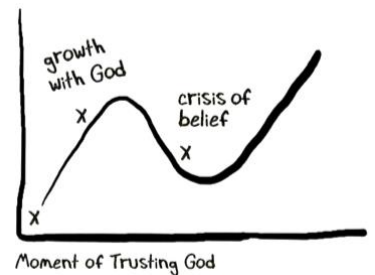
WHEN LIFE ISN'T FAIR, PART 2: STRUGGLING WITH WAITING

None of us like waiting. Whether it's waiting in traffic, waiting in line at Walmart, or waiting in a waiting room at the doctor's office. Waiting is so hard for us, because we're not in control, and we cannot speed up the process. All there is to do is.....wait. But what we learn is that God doesn't waste the waiting. He's not just working on your circumstance—He's working on you.

THE BIG IDEA: When life isn't fair, wait and watch—God is in control.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your worst waiting room experience? Perhaps it was at the dentist's office, an emergency room, a car repair shop, or some other waiting room environment. What made it so bad?
2. In what area of life do you currently find yourself in a waiting room? What emotions are you experiencing as you wait?
3. Chris shared with us this graphic of the dip, where we start following Jesus but then we have a crisis of belief. If you're comfortable, share with the group a time when your faith hit a wall.
4. [Habakkuk 2:1-3](#) contains God's response to Habakkuk's complaint of why God tolerates evil, and it involves some waiting on Habakkuk's part.



¹ I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how he will answer my complaint. ² Then the LORD said to me, "Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. ³ This vision is for an appointed time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

[Habakkuk 2:1-3 \(NLT\)](#)

Stop

5. How did Habakkuk stop what he was doing and changed his perspective in Habakkuk 2:1?
6. Chris said, "Change of pace + change of place = change of perspective." What things do you need to see from a different perspective? Is it difficult for you to still yourself and stop? What promise comes from us being still in Psalm 46:10?
7. Chris said it's easy to lose perspective in the dip. How can stopping and changing rhythms and surroundings give us clarity and perspective?

Listen

8. The second thing that Chris said we must do is to **listen**. Habakkuk climbed the watchtower and listened to God. How do you hear clearly from God?
 - a. God's Word
 - b. God's People
 - c. The Church
 - d. Circumstances & Life
 - e. Being out in Nature
 - f. Praying
 - g. Listening to worship music
 - h. Being silent & still
9. Habakkuk asked his questions, and then stopped and listened to God. When you pray, do you fill the silence with your words? Do you allow time for God to speak? How can you be a better listener to God? How can you be a better listener in your relationships?

Write

10. The third thing Pastor Chris said is that we needed to **write**. Chris said, “*We have a tendency to forget God’s faithfulness. Write it so you can remember it.*” Have you ever written notes from what you’re learning from the Bible or a sermon? How might your spiritual life be different if you kept a journal of what God is doing in your life?
11. Habakkuk stopped to listen and write down the revelation. What is God saying to you?

Wait

12. The last thing is **waiting**. Habakkuk 2 talks about the vision of having its appointed time. Can you share an experience where waiting for the right time brought about a positive outcome in your life?

“The appointed time” refers to specific events in life that are entirely out of our control. According to Ecclesiastes 3:1, “To everything, there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” Waiting on God’s appointed time can seem slow in coming, but it will surely take place at just the right time.

13. In Habakkuk 2:3, patience is emphasized. How can you apply the concept of waiting patiently for God’s timing in your own journey?
14. What are some things that God has taught you during a waiting period?

THINK ABOUT IT

Take a moment to reflect on and remember God’s faithfulness in a specific moment from your past. Or maybe God is doing something unique right now in your life. Share with your group as an encouragement, and end your time by praising God for His Goodness amid life’s trials.

WEEKLY READING

Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on Habakkuk 2, James 1:2-4 and Hebrews 10:35-39.