

## Small Group Study Guide

### Missing Peace: Why Is God Making Me Wait?

Matthew 1:20–25; Galatians 4:4–7

#### Warm-Up:

1. When you were a kid, what was the hardest thing for you to wait for?
2. As an adult, what kind of waiting frustrates you the most today?

#### Scripture Reading:

Have someone read aloud:

- Matthew 1:20–25
- Galatians 4:4–7

Question: What one word or phrase stood out to you?

#### Discussion Questions:

##### 1. Waiting in Joseph's Story:

- What emotions do you imagine Joseph experienced during that waiting period?
- Have you ever “decided” something during a stressful season only to have God redirect you later?
- How might Joseph's waiting have prepared him for the role he was about to step into?

##### 2. How We Interpret Waiting:

- When you're waiting, what story do you usually tell yourself?  
(“God doesn't care,” “I messed something up,” “Nothing good is happening,” etc.)
- How does the Christmas story challenge those assumptions?

##### 3. God's Timing vs. Our Timing:

- What does “fullness of time” communicate about God's character?
- Can you think of a situation where God answered later than you wanted but now see His timing was perfect?

4. What God Forms in the Waiting:

- What might God be growing in us during seasons of waiting?

(Courage, trust, dependence, patience, humility, resilience)

- Which of these do you feel God is forming in you right now?

5. Cooperating with God in the Meanwhile:

- What does faithful obedience look like while waiting?

- What is one thing God has already made clear that you can keep doing?

Spiritual Practice of the Week:

Breath Prayer:

Inhale: "Father, I trust You."

Exhale: "Your timing is perfect."

Closing Question:

Where are you waiting right now, and what do you sense God is inviting you to do—or not do—as you wait?

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You that You are never late.

Thank You that in the waiting, You are working.

Grow our faith.

Give us peace.

Teach us to trust Your timing even when we don't understand. Amen.