

Small Group Guide: Waiting for Daylight

Based on 2 Kings 6:24-7:2



Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth, and to help the group apply what they learn to their daily lives.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you had to wait for something important. Was the wait worth it? How did waiting change you?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Danger of Giving Up Too Soon** - Sometimes breakthrough comes right after our darkest moment
2. **Blame vs. Responsibility** - When facing hardship, we often blame God rather than examining our own hearts

3. **The Value of Waiting with Faith** - Holding onto hope even when circumstances seem impossible
 4. **God's Grace in Dark Times** - Even when we turn away, God still offers mercy and restoration
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15 minutes)

1. What was the situation in Samaria when this passage begins? Why were things so desperate?
2. How did the king respond to the crisis? What does his response reveal about his relationship with God?
3. Why did the king blame Elisha instead of taking responsibility for the spiritual condition of Israel?

Personal Reflection (20 minutes)

4. The pastor shared about waiting 10 years before dating again. Have you ever experienced a season of waiting that ultimately led to something meaningful? What did you learn during that time?
5. When have you been tempted to "give up" right before a breakthrough? What helped you hold on (or what made you give up)?
6. The sermon mentioned that "temporary can never fill what is eternal." What temporary things do we chase in our culture today, hoping they'll satisfy us?

Applying God's Truth (20 minutes)

7. The officer said, "If the Lord would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" - expressing doubt in God's ability to provide. When have you struggled with similar doubts? How did you (or how can you) move past cynicism to faith?
8. The king "tore his clothes" (showed grief) but then blamed God instead of repenting. How can we tell the difference between genuine repentance and just feeling bad about consequences?
9. What does it look like practically to "wait on the Lord" in our modern context? How is this different from passive resignation?

Key Quote to Discuss

"The difficulty of life, the darkest moments, the hardest moments to get through are sometimes right before daylight breaks. And some of us will make it. Some of us will have the willpower and the faith to see it through, and some in this world will not."

Question: What encouragement or warning do you take from this statement?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Identify Your Blame

- Journal about an area where you've been blaming God or others instead of taking responsibility
- Write out a prayer of honest confession and ask God for His perspective

Option 2: Practice Waiting with Hope

- Choose one situation where you're tempted to give up or take matters into your own hands
- Commit to pray daily for God's timing and provision
- Share your commitment with one person for accountability

Option 3: Examine Your Idols

- Make a list of things you turn to for satisfaction besides God (social media, shopping, relationships, achievement, etc.)
 - For each item, write down what you're really looking for (acceptance, security, purpose, etc.)
 - Ask God to help you find those things in Him instead
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Prayer Focus (15 minutes)

Break into groups of 2-3 and pray for:

1. **Faith to wait** - For those in seasons of darkness or difficulty
 2. **Eyes to see** - Like Elisha's servant, to see God's provision even when circumstances look bleak
 3. **Hearts to repent** - For areas where we've blamed God instead of turning to Him
 4. **Hope for breakthrough** - That we would hold on just a little longer, knowing God is faithful
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Closing Reflection

Read together: **Lamentations 3:22-26** *"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.' The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."*

Looking Ahead

Next week we'll discover how God miraculously ended the famine and fulfilled His promise through Elisha. Come prepared to discuss times when God showed up in unexpected ways.

Additional Resources

- **Scripture for further study:** Psalm 27:13-14, Isaiah 40:28-31, Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4
- **Reflection question for the week:** Where is God asking me to wait right now, and how can I wait with faith rather than cynicism?

5-Day Devotional: Holding On to Hope in Dark Times



Day 1: Understanding Christ's Unconditional Love

Reading: Romans 5:6-11

Devotional:

The sermon reminds us of a powerful truth: Christ's love surpasses our shame and guilt. Just as the pastor experienced unconditional love for his future wife despite her past, Jesus looks at us with complete knowledge of our failures and says, "You are worth dying for." We often struggle to grasp this reality because we measure love by human standards. But God's love isn't conditional on our performance or past. Today, reflect on what burdens of shame you're carrying. Bring them before Jesus, knowing that nothing in your past outweighs His love for you. His sacrifice on the cross declares your worth, regardless of what you've done or what's been done to you. Let this truth transform how you see yourself and others.

Reading: 2 Kings 6:24-33

Devotional:

When circumstances grow dark, cynicism becomes a tempting refuge. The king of Israel faced unimaginable tragedy yet chose to blame God's prophet rather than turn to God in repentance. How often do we respond similarly when life doesn't meet our expectations? The pastor waited ten years for marriage, risking cynicism that could have closed his heart forever. Had he given up, he would have missed experiencing Christ's love in profound ways. Cynicism masquerades as wisdom but actually hardens our hearts against hope. When you're tempted to blame God for your circumstances, pause and ask: "What is my heart posture toward Him?" Are you closing yourself off from the breakthrough that might be just around the corner? God invites honest lament, but cynicism shuts the door on faith.

Day 3: Worth the Wait

Reading: Isaiah 40:27-31

Devotional:

"Sometimes the weight pays off." This simple statement carries profound spiritual truth. The Israelites under siege couldn't see that deliverance was one day away. Many of us stand on the edge of breakthrough but can't perceive it through our present darkness. Waiting requires active faith—not passive resignation. Isaiah promises that those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. This isn't empty optimism; it's anchored confidence in God's character and timing. Consider what you're waiting for: healing, reconciliation, provision, direction. The waiting isn't wasted time; it's where faith muscles develop. God often does His deepest work in us during the wait. Tomorrow, Elisha promised, the famine would end. What if your tomorrow is closer than you think? Don't give up today.

Day 4: Taking Responsibility in a Culture of Blame

Reading: 2 Samuel 12:1-13

Devotional:

The contrast between King David and the king of Israel is striking. When confronted with sin, David repented; when faced with consequences, Israel's king blamed God. Our culture excels at deflecting responsibility—pointing fingers at systems, circumstances, or even God Himself. Yet spiritual maturity requires looking in the mirror first. The northern kingdom's idolatry created the conditions for judgment, but the king refused accountability. Where are you avoiding responsibility in your spiritual life? What cultural compromises have you made that mirror the world rather than reflect God's kingdom? Repentance isn't about shame; it's about realignment. It's the pathway back to communion with God. David's honest confession led to restoration. The unnamed king's blame led to continued darkness. Which path will you choose today?

Day 5: Hope Is On the Way

Reading: 2 Kings 7:1-2; Romans 8:18-25

Devotional: "Tomorrow the famine is over." Elisha's declaration seemed impossible to those drowning in despair. Yet God's promise stood firm. The commander who doubted would see it but not experience it—a sobering reminder that cynicism costs us participation in God's blessing. We live between promise and fulfillment, already victorious through Christ yet awaiting His return. Paul reminds us that present sufferings cannot compare to coming glory. This isn't denial of pain; it's perspective that transcends circumstances. The women who resorted to cannibalism gave up one day too soon. What are you ready to give up on? Your marriage? Your prodigal child? Your calling? Your faith itself? Jesus whispers to His church: "Hold on. Hope is on the way. Light is around the corner." The payoff is worth the wait because Jesus is coming back, and He's coming soon.