



WAITING FOR GOD

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JUNE 11, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: Sometimes it's hard to wait. In a culture of microwave dinners, Keurig coffee brewers, and on-demand video content, it can seem downright criminal when God doesn't answer prayers quickly. When the answer doesn't come in the time we expect it to, though, the problem is not God's timing...
it's ours.

2. BIBLE VERSE

2 Peter 3:9 [ESV]

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

God's timing works differently than ours, with many factors we may not take into account. Remember, He's patient, and He's working for your good.



Q. What's a prayer you've prayed that didn't get answered as quickly as you wanted?

Q. What's an example of a time when God was patient with you?

Q. Would you rather have God's answers - and judgment - happen on **your** timetable, or on **His**?

3. APPLICATION

Matthew 7:11 [NLT]

"So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him."

God will give good things to you, but He's the one who determines what is truly good. If you find yourself not getting what you want, that thing you're asking for might not be as good for you as it seems.

Q. What's something that humans used to think was good or healthy, which we now understand is bad or unhealthy?

Q. Is it possible that something that seems good for you could actually be bad for others? If God loves all humanity, could His delay in answering be for the greater good?

Q. Sometimes a good thing can become bad if it comes at the wrong time or in the wrong amount. Can you think of a few examples?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for caring enough about what's good for you to answer prayers in His timing. Ask Him to give you patience to wait for His answers and to help you trust in His character while you're waiting.



MORE THAN A SONG

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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1. ACTIVITY: **"I Will Worship God With All My Heart!"** Give everyone a pen and piece of paper and have them write down the name of their favorite celebrity—an athlete, a singer, an actor, a public figure, or whomever. Once everyone is finished, tell them to imagine that they've been invited to spend an hour alone with this person. Discuss the following questions:

2. BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 100:2

"Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy."

Q. What is the first thing you would do when you saw this famous person?

Q. How would you feel while you were in this person's presence?

Q. How do you think you would feel once you left this person's presence?

Q. What are some of the things you might say to that person?

When you're discussing some of the things you might say, suggest to your children that they may say something like:

"You're the best quarterback ever. The way you run the ball is awesome."

"You're so funny in all of your movies. I love the way you can make me laugh."

"The way you dress is so cool, I would love to look just like you."

3. APPLICATION

Tell your children that while they may never get the chance to be in the presence of their favorite celebrity, they always have the opportunity to be in the presence of God.



Sometimes our biggest problem in worship is we can't really think of anything to say other than, "Thank you, Jesus" over and over. Maybe it's because we aren't paying enough attention to what God is doing in our lives every day. As a family, make a commitment to praising God every day over the next week for something He's done in your life that day. It may be something simple like giving you the strength to resist temptation or giving you a sense of peace during a stressful situation. Whatever it is, make sure you spend some time praising God for it.



4. PRAYER FOCUS

To end your devotion, have each person name one thing that God has done for them recently. Then worship God together as a family, either silently or out loud, praising Him for all of the good things He does.