



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

The Big Idea

There's discomfort in waiting. Don't waste the wait.

Message Summary

Not many of us like to wait, and even less of us are willing to take the risk of actually asking God to help us be better at it (because we ALL know what that means - we're getting stuck behind the slow cars!). But there's no denying that God uses the waiting to prepare us for the promise that we're waiting for, so it would be wise to learn from someone like Abraham who waited 25 years (yes, that's a 2 and a half DECADES) to see the promise begin to unfold in his life. Along the way, he encountered 3 dangers that can cause us to waste the wait instead of using it: inadequacy, impatience, and insecurity. Overcoming them will ensure that we don't waste the wait, even if it brings us discomfort.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Who is usually the first one ready in your family? Who are you usually waiting for? How does it feel to wait for someone who seems to be taking longer than necessary?
- How do you think Abraham felt after waiting for 24 years? How would YOU have felt?
- What's the longest you've ever waited for something that you really wanted? How does what you're waiting for impact how you deal with the waiting?
- Give yourself a grade in each of the danger areas: inadequacy, impatience, and insecurity. What are the biggest factors in how you determined your answer?
- Read the following verses and discuss how God's faithfulness can help us in the waiting: 2 Timothy 2:13; Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Cor. 1:9; Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 36:5; Hebrews 11:11
- How can seeing Abraham believe God and yet still struggle as he waited encourage you as you wait? Read Romans 3:3-4. What strength can we draw from them?