

***Learning to Wait With Simeon: It's Worth the Wait!* – December 14 & 15, 2019**
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Psalm 16

- What does David want from God (1)? What does he say to him (2)? Is this *really* true: that apart from the Lord we have no good thing? Put this sentiment into your own words. What needs can only God meet? In seasons of waiting, how does he meet your needs? What does David say about God's people (3-4)?
- How else does David describe the way God satisfies (5-6, 9-11)? Consider the benefit of regularly encountering the Lord in all these ways. How does it satisfy you? What inheritance awaits you? How secure does your connection to God feel? What joy does he bring to your life? Tell him all these things.
- What does David commit to keep doing (7-8)? When you must wait, why is it good to do these things? This Advent, pray for everyone who's waiting – that they would keep their eyes on Jesus and anchor their hope in him.

Day Two: Psalm 27

- Why is David not afraid (1)? How does he weather attacks (2-3)? What one thing does he want from the Lord (4)? Why (5)? How does he respond to this God experience (6)? In Luke 2, what do you think it was like for Simeon to “dwell in the house of the Lord” and “gaze on Jesus’ beauty”? Re-read verse 5. In days of waiting and trouble, may you always seek God's shelter.
- David then makes several more pleas to the Lord; summarize them (7-12). Consider his emotional state when he penned these words. Pray seasons of uncertainty in your own life would be marked by fierce commitment to God.
- What is David confident about (13)? In conclusion, what does he remind both himself and his readers to do (14)? Meditate on these last two verses and visualize their truths taking root in your life for the long haul. What do you see? During Advent, what experience of these verses does God want to give to you?

Day Three: Isaiah 40:27-31

- In this section of Isaiah, how does God address his people (27)? What do they think is happening (27)? How do you think the Lord feels when people say or think things like this? What do you think he would like to hear instead? He wants our honesty, but he also wants us to trust that he's at work. Consider your ability to be both honest and patient before the Lord. What growth and change in this area do you desire?
- Summarize God's response to the people's faulty assumptions (28-31). What reminders are found here? Which part is fresh, as though you're hearing it for the first time? Identify and memorize the one sentence that most helps you to accept the inevitability of waiting, and bring it to mind whenever waiting proves challenging. Pray you'd see waiting as an opportunity to grow in patience and receive the sort of love God reserves for such seasons.

Day Four: John 6:60-69

- After it seems Jesus told his followers that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood, how did many of them respond (60)? Think of everything Jesus has taught you via the Bible, the Holy Spirit, life experience, etc. What hard teachings are challenging for you to accept? Why? Today, where are you on this journey of embracing everything Jesus wants to teach us?

- What did Jesus sense about the disciples (61)? What did he say to them (61-65)? What life does the Holy Spirit give to you? What promises does he whisper? After Jesus spoke, what did some of his disciples do (66)? When waiting, do you ever turn your back on Jesus? Explain. How do you find your way back to him?
- What question did Jesus ask specifically of the Twelve (67)? Summarize Peter's answer (68-69). Because Jesus has "the words of eternal life," truly, where else could we possibly go when things are delayed or fall apart? Speak to the Lord about this.

Day Five: John 14:1-11

- As Jesus comforted his disciples, what did he initially say (1)? How does belief in Jesus bring comfort to one's heart? What picture did Jesus then paint of the future (2-4)? Place yourself in this house. What do you see? Hear? Smell? How does this visualization impact your outlook on the future?
- What was Thomas' reaction to Jesus' words in verse four (5)? What did this prompt Jesus to say about the way to get to God (6-7)? Simmer on Thomas' statement in verse five. What times in your life warranted the "Lord, I don't know where you are going..." prayer? How did God answer you? When you're confused and waiting, what life does Jesus offer to you?
- What did Philip then request (8)? In response, what point did Jesus continue to drive home (9-11)? Imagine Jesus posing a similar question to *you*: "After all this time, don't you know me?" Respond to the Lord. What is he speaking to your heart?