

A. WAITING ON PURPOSE

- Waiting On God is a fundamental part of our relationship with Him, extending far beyond the times when we confront life's delays and detours.
- God is waiting on us! And He longs for us to discover that WOG every day of our lives is an invitation for us to experience His love and compassion: Is 30:18-22 ESV - Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him...^{19b} He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²² Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"
- Here are some key words from our passage in the original language that are informative regarding the broader implications of our call to Wait on God:
 - The word used for gracious means to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to have mercy upon and have pity upon. (Strong's H2603)
 - The word selected for mercy is a primitive root meaning to fondle; by implication, to love, and to be compassionate (Strong's H7355)
 - Justice is the attribute of God that describes His righteous judgment, equity, truth, goodness, and lack of iniquity. (Strong's H 4941)
 - Scatter means to cast away or cause to fly away on the wind. It is exemplified when the Hebrews ground the golden calf and scattered its powder (Ex 32:20) (H2219)
- God is waiting and longing to connect with you. He is there for you in the adversity and affliction (v. 20), but also as you walk through life in daily need of direction (v. 21).
- We were created to wait upon the Lord moment by moment for everything. He is to be our Provider, and we are meant to simply receive from Him.
- Adam and Eve enjoyed this way of life until the fall. Forever after all humanity has an inner longing for God to provide the redemption of that lost way of life.
- Jesus has redeemed and restored our relationship with God! As we wait on Him, we can experience His original intent for us – lives dependent upon Him as our Portion: Ps 73:26 NAS -- My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- If we don't learn to wait well in this fallen world, we are prone to look to other things (idols) when stressed or dissatisfied or impatient: Jer 13:10 -- These sinful people would not listen to My words. They walk in the strong-will of their own hearts and have gone to serve and worship other gods.
- Our daily, purposeful waiting on Him brings us progressively closer to the place where we He becomes our Portion. We find that He is enough and our idols are not.
- Insights:

B. MY PORTION

- Saying to ourselves, “God is my portion” on a daily or hourly basis will enable us to understand how incredibly dependent we are and how completely generous He is.
- This name of God, “My Portion,” stems from the time when the Israelites entered the Promised Land. Each of the 12 tribes was given a portion or inheritance.
- Eleven of the tribes received tracts of land as their portion, but not the priestly tribe of Levi: Num 18:20 -- Then the LORD said to Aaron: “You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I *am* your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.
- God did not give property or a stream of income to the Levites. They were given part of the sacrifices and offerings brought to God by the people.
- The Levites were privileged with nearness to God. They waited on Him each day and they experienced His faithfulness to always provide all they needed.
- Their lifestyle of complete dependence illustrates the essence of Waiting on God.
- This principle of dependence and humility is part of our call to be childlike before the Lord: Matt 18:2-4 JBP -- “Believe me,” he said, “unless you change your whole outlook and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven. It is the man who can be as humble as this little child who is greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.
- Little children are dependent, teachable and trust implicitly. It’s hard for self-sufficient adults to see their great need or to be humble enough to readily receive from God: James 4:6b AMP -- God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it)
- Because our human nature resists humbly receiving (from God and others), we attempt to meet our own needs. We find false and inferior substitute portions.
- We seek goodness and satisfaction from something other than our true Portion. Unlike Him, these portions (idols) can’t fully or consistently fulfill our deepest needs.
- We’re often unaware that we have this tendency until these other portions let us down in trials or when we begin practicing Waiting on God in complete dependence.
- Most of these things aren’t intrinsically wrong. But it is wrong to let them be rivals of God, allowing them to prevent us from trusting in and receiving from Him.
- Much has been written about the deep inner desires that drive us to these substitutes. Here are the 4 most common roots underneath our idols:
 - Control: desire to manage our circumstances and accomplish our agenda
 - Power: desire for recognition, influence and to succeed in our endeavors
 - Approval: desire to be liked, accepted, and to please others
 - Comfort: desire for pleasure, freedom and absence of stress or pain (Adapted from Tim Keller)
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Lord, please show me anywhere in my life where these desires have become improperly elevated and replaced You as my Portion:

-- Control:

-- Power:

-- *Approval:*

-- *Comfort:*

-- *Which one of these do I depend upon most often?*

In this vulnerable area of your heart, are you willing let go of a substitute and let God be enough for you? Record your thoughts here:

Lord, help me to be fully convinced that You can and will meet all my deepest needs!

- Let's make it our practice, when feeling weak or in need, to pause for a few quiet moments to Wait on God, asking Him to be our Portion in whatever we're facing.
- Insights:

C. CHILDLIKENESS

- As we wait upon the Lord in childlike faith, we are able to let go of all our efforts to accomplish our own wills and fill our own souls. This is freedom!
- Here are the mindsets we need in order to enjoy a life of childlike WOG:
 - Stillness before the Lord. (Ps 46:10, Ps 62:5). "It is when the soul is hushed in silent awe and worship before the Holy Presence that reveals itself within, that the still small voice of the blessed Spirit will be heard." (Andrew Murray)
 - Humility that accepts our helplessness apart from God: John 3:27 -- No one can have anything unless God gives it.
 - Teachability, trusting God's Word and ways are far better than our own: 1 Cor 3:18 TV -- Don't let anyone deceive himself. If any one of you thinks he is wise in matters pertaining to this world, *he is going to be really disappointed*. In fact, one must be deemed a fool *by worldly standards* in order to become truly wise.
 - Yielded hearts that bow before God's wisdom instead of their own: Jer 17:5 AMP -- Cursed is the man who trusts in *and* relies on mankind, making [weak, faulty human] flesh his strength, and whose mind *and* heart turn away from the LORD.
 - Waiting in faith, believing that the Father will guide His child: Ps 25:5, 9 ESV -- Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long...⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
- Let's ask Jesus to make true of us a posture of childlikeness. May we grow more still, humble, teachable, yielded, and willing to Wait On God!
- Insights:

D. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- **ONE THING**

- The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- **PONDER THE TRUTH**

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- **PROCESSING THE TRUTH**

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.