



LEADER'S NOTES

Worth the Wait

Acts 1:4

QUESTION 1 allows your group to discuss the 40 days Jesus spent on earth after His resurrection that we see represented in first chapter of Acts. It's widely agreed that Luke wrote the book of Acts. Give your group some time to discuss what it must have been like to be a follower of Jesus at that time. To think He was dead, then realize He was alive. To spend time with Him after His resurrection, and then for Him to be gone again in such a short time. Do they feel that they could have waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit? How well do they wait now for God's presence? How often is quiet time and bible study skipped for other "more important" daily tasks?

QUESTION 2 – It may help if you start by sharing first. Some groups will have people that are not able to share, because they still do not grasp the concept of the Holy Spirit, they do not understand that we are meant to be in communication with God daily, relying on His power, and presence, through partnership with the Holy Spirit, to share the good news, and more. Working to encourage anyone struggling with these ideas by sharing scripture or personal experience is better than giving advice to them, unless they ask for it.

Matthew 7:7-8 **7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."** When we seek Him out God will always show up.

QUESTION 3 works to help people understand how the power of the Spirit can guide us, and keep us from getting stuck in sin. As group members start to share, they may be teetering on confessing life long struggles with specific types of sin they deal with while wandering away from Christ. Most people that struggle in this way deal with the same temptations over and over again. Be sensitive here as people are sharing, and encourage them to understand that through the power and partnership of the Holy Spirit we can be set free from cycles of sin. We don't have to get stuck wandering over and over and over again.

Romans 6:14 **For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.**

Romans 8:2 **because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death.**

QUESTION 4 can be a little confusing. My hope here is that people can start to see a pattern in their lives. If they continually find themselves struggling with negative thoughts, wanting to complain in situations of waiting, then maybe they can identify what is usually happening in their lives when they feel this way. Is it financial stress, is it relational, is poor health choices, or lack of spiritual focus?

Romans 8:28 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

As believers in and followers of Jesus it is important that we remember this promise. He can turn all things for good. If we get stuck whining and complaining instead of asking Him where the good is in a situation, or where the work is, we will miss it.

Question 5 will allow your group to walk through something that probably everyone struggles with at some point or another. Stress, worry, doubt, fear, and anxiety. I know personally there are times in my life that I am stressed out and don't even recognize it. When stress goes unrecognized in our lives it can lead to all kinds of poor choices, and unhealthy interactions. Worship is a God given action that positions us to get one on one with the creator of the universe, the lover of our souls, and the perfecter of our faith. As your group members share, encourage them to express how they feel during worship. Hopefully the stress, worry, doubt, fear, and anxiety they might sometimes bring into worship doesn't stay for long. If it does, a time of prayer before worship, giving God those thoughts and feelings can make a big difference.