

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer
James@jcpineville.com
www.jcpineville.com



Leader Guide Session 3

Outline:

I. During seasons of waiting, we must remember that God is still working.

- A. God always has a purpose and is doing something important in the wait.
- B. God took His time and created the world in six days-not just six seconds.
- C. Jesus lived on earth for 30 years, waiting, before He started His ministry.

II. God is not in a hurry, and He has higher plans for our lives than we do.

- A. The Westminster Catechism states: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever."
- B. Our chief aim is often "how do I feel?" and "how do I get what I want?"
- C. We will not be satisfied with such pursuits, which is why God calls us to something much greater.

III. The Israelites' crossing the Red Sea reveals how God works while we wait.

- A. The people had been released after 400 years in Egypt (see Exodus 13:17-18).
- B. Moses and the people took the bones of Joseph with them (see 13:19).
- C. Joseph had faith that God would bring him back to the promised land.

IV. God sometimes leads us the long way to show His sufficiency in our lives.

- A. God could have brought the people into the promised land in two weeks.
- B. But God led them to a dead end at the Red Sea and into the wilderness.
- C. God demonstrated that He was their defender from behind and their deliverer moving forward.

V. God sometimes leads us the long way to convince us that He is always with us.

- A. While we are waiting on the Lord, we are also waiting with the Lord.
- B. We can travel in the darkness, in the light, in any situation, because God is with us.
- C. God revealed that He is with us when He sent Emmanuel into this world.

VI. God sometimes leads us the long way to reveal to us that He is enough.

- A. Great anthems are not born on the mountaintops but in the valleys of life.
- B. The Israelites' lament on one side of the Red Sea turned into worship on the other side.
- C. We have to worship while we wait because worship keeps our view on Jesus.

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Discussion:

1. Why do you suppose God takes His time rather than immediately answering our requests or moving in our lives? What have you learned about God's character by having to wait on Him?
2. How does having to wait on God's timing point us to something greater than what we want or how we feel?
3. What stands out to you when you consider the way people in the Bible, such as Jacob's son Joseph or the Israelites in Egypt, had to wait on God to move in their lives? What can you learn from their examples to apply to your own times of waiting?
4. When has God led you the long way through a season of trials or struggles? What did you learn about His sufficiency while going through this season?
5. How do you experience God's presence with you even when you're waiting or taking the long way? How does worshiping in the midst of waiting remind you that God is with you?