

Learning to WAIT

Teacher's Guide



FALL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

STRENGTH *for the Inner Man*

Be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man — Ephesians 3:16

Those in your senior-level class will have a broad base of experience to draw from as you approach this study with them. The point you will want to bring out is the difference between passive and active waiting. Waiting on the Lord is more than just biding our time.

A visual aid for opening this session might be a minute minder (where sand runs through a small glass) or a stopwatch. Illustrate the difference between sitting silently and motionless for one minute, and then spending the same period of time doing something. How much faster the time goes when a person is active!

You might also move into the discussion of this topic by asking your class to identify some different things we may be called to wait for in a spiritual sense.

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OBJECTIVE

The students will be able to explain that patience is a virtue Christians should strive to attain in every situation. They should recognize that the patient Christian is one who spends much time waiting at the feet of Jesus.

1. They that wait upon the Lord qualify! Just that one condition is given—wait on God— but with it four great promises. Note the word “shall” that is used in each promise. The four blessings are: spiritual renewal, mounting up as on wings of eagles (attaining higher heights of victory), the ability to run the Christian race without being weary or giving up, and being able to walk with God all the way from earth to Glory. In Isaiah 30:18 we read the promise: “Blessed are all they that wait for him.” Have your class tell of times when they have waited on the Lord and have received new strength, healing, or encouragement to keep running the race.
2. The positive precepts are: trust God, delight in Him, commit your ways to Him, rest in Him, and wait patiently for Him. Bring out that waiting patiently for God and fretting do not go together. They will separate as oil and water do. Ask your class to describe what they might expect to see in the Christian life of one who practices these precepts. They will likely conclude that he will have a settled demeanor, will be confident, sure, secure, and without anxious care.
3. The word is “abide.” In conversing with His disciples, Christ did not use the Old Testament word wait, but He used the word abide, which has a similar meaning. Help your students find the blessings in John 15:1-11 that come to those who abide in Christ. These are: answers to prayer, the Father glorified, Jesus’ love for us, abiding love, permanence, and fullness of joy.
4. Habakkuk said, “Though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come.” Explain to your students that we can’t see the end from the beginning as God can. Our times are in His hands and we do not know all the intricacies in our lives and the lives of others that have to be worked out before the answer to our prayers can be realized. As you discuss why it is necessary to wait patiently, remind your students that the events recorded in Acts 2:1-4 were the results of tarrying. When Pentecost was fully come, those gathered in the Upper Room were all in one accord. Tarrying until all was right within brought the Comforter. Explain to your class that if we fail to tarry as we should, we will not receive the fullness of the Lord’s blessing. We can expect answers to prayer when we obey the Lord by waiting patiently for Him, and while we are tarrying, consecrate our all to Him.
5. At the end of twenty-one days of prayer and fasting Daniel saw a certain man. Overcome by the glory of the Lord, he fell in a trance, yet was conscious of the Lord speaking. What beautiful words of endearment Daniel heard from this heavenly One! Remind your students that from the first day of Daniel’s tarrying, his words were heard in Heaven.

Apostolic Faith Church

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Memorize

Rest in the
LORD and wait
patiently for him.
– **Psalm 37:7**

Challenge Yourself

Key Texts

Psalm 37:1,3-8; Isaiah 40:29-31;
Daniel 10:1-21; Habakkuk 2:3;
Luke 6:12; John 15:1-11;
1 Corinthians 1:7

Other Scriptures Used

Isaiah 30:18; Matthew 25:1-13;
1 Corinthians 1:8

Jesus
THE LIGHT of THE WORLD