



## Small Groups Bible Study Teaching

**Campaign:** BUILD 2014 (Maturity)  
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**Topic:** Learning to wait on the Lord

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:31

*“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

### Introduction:

Have you ever had to sit and wait for something? It can be one of the most frustrating thing. Some people hate waiting so much they would rather pay extra for faster shipping, or travel the extra kilometers for a pick up instead of waiting for the delivery.

But sometimes God makes us wait. Sometimes He answers with an immediate 'yes' or an immediate 'no'. But most of the time his answer is 'wait'. It can feel like a 'no' but it is really a 'yes, but not right now'.

In nature, newborns don't have a sense of time. When they want something, they expect to get it now. If they don't get it, they cry or sometimes act out in a tantrum.

As we get older we learn patience; we learn how to wait. In this we can see that the art of waiting is a sign of maturity.

### Maturity through waiting

The Old Testament uses 4 Hebrew words for wait

1. Qavah = to patiently expect (eg: Job 3:9; Prv 20:22)
2. Chakah = to desire, long for (eg: Ps 33:20; Isa 30:18)
3. Yachal = to hope or trust (eg: Isa 51:5)
4. Damam = to be still, tarry or rest (eg: Ps 62:5)

With this in mind, the most common way of waiting is sitting around doing nothing. While this is the most obvious way of applying the definition it is not the only way.

It is said that girls mature faster than boys. How can this be true if they are both the same age? Maturity has a lot more to do with attitude than that of physical age.

In this lesson we will explore a way of growing in maturity through the art of Waiting on the Lord.

### Patience (qavah – patiently expect)

Jas 1:4 - *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*



The first definition on waiting that the Bible uses, is patience. Nobody is born with the ability to be patient. It is something you learn as you grow up, the older you get the more patient you become.

Other words for patience include endurance, perseverance and steadfastness; and it is the art remaining true or pressing on while you are lacking or missing something (usually and answer or result of some kind).

Discussion:

- How do you gain patience?
- Is anyone waiting on anything at the moment? (Spend some time encouraging the person who is waiting on something)

**Desire (chakah – long for)**

Jer 29:13 - You will seek *me* and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Waiting and desire seem to be opposite emotions. Where one is “wanting” the other is “waiting”. But waiting without the object of your desire is really just being idle.

When you wait for a test result, the test result becomes your desire. Without that, what are you waiting for? You will be passionate about what you desire and passion drives our actions.

Many people who don't know what they want will end up where they start. Desire is another word for passion, goal or ambition. It sets your direction and your boundaries which is another word for discipline.

When you desire Christ, there are certain things you will not do and there are things you will do more often.

Discussion:

- What are you passionate about in terms of serving God?
- What steps do you think you need to achieve this?

**Hope (yachal – hope)**

Heb 6:19 - *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain*

How is hope tied to maturity? Hope is a compound emotion made up of desire and expectation. It is like wishing only it is grounded in patience and maturity whereas wishing is immature.

When you wish for something, there is often no basis for that wish to come true. For example: wishing that you were a millionaire – there is no effort being put into making this a reality.

Hope is an extension of patience. To be patiently waiting usually means you have a part to play in the future result. For example: you studied for an exam and you did the exam and now you are waiting... hoping for a good result. The basis of your hope lies in the effort you put into studying.



Even with salvation – Our hope is in Christ, we were saved by Christ bought with His blood and have entered a relationship with Him being His followers and servants. So the basis of our hope is our relationship with our savior. He is eternal and will never fail. Heb 6:13-20 talks about the certainty of God’s promise.

**Roleplay:**

- Split into groups of 2.
- Each person make up a personal tragedy
- Take turns giving hope to each other.

**Rest (damam – rest, be still)**

*Ex 23:12 - “Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and so that the slave born in your household and the foreigner living among you may be refreshed.*

It is a mistake to disregard taking breaks. Professionals who push themselves and don’t take breaks often break themselves. Even machines need some downtime for maintenance.

Resting is not the same as being idle even if they look the same. Resting has purpose – to refresh and renew; while being idle has no purpose. To sit around the house for the sake of sitting around the house is being idle. To rest and relax for the purpose of relieving stress is purposeful resting.

Even the Sabbath as described in scripture has purpose. It is a day to rest secular activities and dedicate it to the Lord.

Learning to put unfinished activities aside so you can dedicate some time for God takes time to learn because of our nature to get things finished and out of the way. But when we learn to rest on God and wait on Him we will find that God will take care of the rest.

*Matt 6:33-34 – But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

**Conclusion:**

Maturity isn’t just about responsibility and duty, it is learning to be patient, having a passion, being filled with hope and knowing when to rest.

Most of us are waiting for something; while we wait for God’s mercy, let us grow in maturity into the likeness of Christ.

**Memory Verse:**

*“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

Isaiah 40:31