



Small Group Curriculum • Genesis 39-41:1 • Dreaming Wide Awake

THE WAITING ROOM • WEEK 4 • Genesis 39-41:1

In the Christian life, waiting is never simply time to pass or a hollow space in between. In fact, it can be a breeding ground for doubt, disappointment, discouragement and desperation. Unhealthy things can take root. We lose heart and we let go of the dream that God had given us.

But when we submit to the transformation of our minds in Christ, we realize that there is a Kingdom reality to the waiting room of life. We come to understand that waiting is part of dreaming wide awake; powerful in light of God's character and activity in it. Through the lens of Joseph's story marked by 13 years of long waiting (from receiving a God-given dream to living out his Kingdom purpose), we gain knowledge and insight on God's character and His deep and powerful work in our waiting.

REMINDERS

- The Awakening Meals Ministry is needing further team support. If interested, please email Carrie at carrie.freedom.usa@gmail.com.
- Is it time to declare Awakening Church "home" and become a member? Register for our 201 Awakening Membership class at awakeningchurch.com/events
- Save the Date: Immigration and The Bible with [Matthew Soerens](#), Nov 10, 6:30pm at the Awakening Offices (A School of Faith edition to the Love Local teaching series).

ICEBREAKER OPTION #1

Let's have fun with the idea of waiting! Imagine Jesus living in our time in Silicon Valley. Imagine what He might be doing while waiting...

... for His pumpkin cold foam latte at Starbucks.
... for His turn at the doctor's office.
... for a parking spot at Westfield Valley Fair.
... for His next door neighbor to receive Him into his/her heart.
... for this generation to be awakened to new life in Him.

Pick a few or answer all then share your thoughts with the group!

ICEBREAKER OPTION #2

Dream up and design the perfect hospital waiting room. Share the top three things you would have in it and your heart behind it.

AWAKENING

INTRODUCTION

The waiting room of life is an inescapable part of being human. In fact, our biblical heroes (including Jesus!) have had their fair share of short seasons or long periods of waiting. It is common for waiting to elicit unpleasant and uncomfortable emotions and responses. In harder, dream-crushing kinds of waiting, just like in Joseph's story, it becomes an experience of unwanted suffering where one is apt to feel helpless, hopeless, and forgotten.

But there is a compelling pattern in Scripture that demands our attention, pointing to the greater Kingdom reality of waiting - purposed for the character formation of man and the revelation of the perfect character of God and His divine activity in our waiting.

REFLECTION and DISCUSSION

1. In the waiting room of your life, how is God revealing Himself to you? How are you experiencing His presence? His favor? His formative work? His faithful promise-keeping?
2. In your here and now, what might God be forming in you as you wait?
(This can be a space of affirmation within the group. For example by saying to another, "I do see that God is growing you in faith and patience as you wait for breakthrough in your situation.")
2. Examine Romans 8:28-30. For the purpose of what we're learning, try replacing the word "things" with the word "waiting".

And we know that in all things (waiting), God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

How do these verses...

- ... continue to build up and drive home the Kingdom reality of waiting?
- ... inform you of God's character?
- ... inform you of your formation or "becoming"?
- ... help you see your story of waiting differently?

GREATER COLLECTIVE DREAMING, GREATER COLLECTIVE WAITING

AWAKENING

To fully embrace the Kingdom reality of waiting means we also have to join in the greater collective dreaming and waiting as belonging to the body of Christ. We look to the promise of Jesus returning in all power and glory. Revelation 21 paints a beautiful eternal promise for us- a one day, some day New Heaven and New Earth where God dwells among His people... free of death, mourning, crying, and pain. How does this truth deepen your understanding of waiting? Might there be a new perspective taking shape?

RESPONSE and PRAYER

God knows and cares about our waiting more intimately and deeply than anyone else in the world... even more than we do. And He makes clear His will for us in all circumstances. Yes, that includes our waiting. Let our response and prayer be guided by Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

DREAM JOURNAL PRAYER PROMPT

The book of Psalms is rich with the Lord's provision of prayer for our waiting. Surface in your heart the dream you are waiting for God to bring fulfillment to. Then read the verses below. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate one or two to dwell on as you pray about your story of waiting.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psalm 37:7

Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Psalm 37:34

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

Psalm 40:1

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Psalm 130:5-6