

## Waiting in the Wild: Study Notes

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### Sermon Notes:

Today we are going to engage with the idea of what it means to ‘wait on God’.

#### Passage: Jeremiah 29:10-14

It is normal to be excited about God’s abundant life that he has in store for us, and we should be excited! But we can’t divorce the promise God has for us from the process by which we receive it.

The book of Exodus in the bible details a rescue mission performed by God for the people of Israel. What is interesting is that this rescue mission was realized (in part) by a forty year wandering through the wilderness, following clouds (Seriously, read it). Our lives can often feel like a wandering, or a waiting for God to deliver what he’s promised. What we discover is that, through Jesus, we don’t have to ‘wait’ in that traditional sense— He’s here with us through Jesus! We also learn that waiting for God translates into our lives as being led by God. His presence is our guide through life’s wilderness.

#### Don’t Put the Sheep before the Shepherd (Passage: John 10.14)

John 10 tells us that Jesus called himself ‘the Good Shepherd’, and that his sheep know his voice. Our journey of following Jesus is very practically about learning to hear his voice and how that informs us of the world and how we should live in it.

#### God’s Delay is to Develop us (Passage: Psalm 23)

Our wandering and waiting is actually a tool God uses to develop us, and he will put delays in our life— both rest and challenge —to draw us deeper into dependency in Him. This process prepares us for the calling God has for us.

#### God’s Leading is towards Purpose, not Preference (Passage: Matthew 28:18-20)

The leading of God will always take us outside of our comfort zones. The reality of life isn’t necessarily about finding God, but giving God control of our lives. In this, his promise is that His presence and His power is found working out his Purposes.

## Life Group Discussion:

(feel free to use any or all of these questions)

### Warm-up

1. Would you describe yourself as a patient person? Can you discuss a time in your life where being impatient ended up backfiring on you?
2. In a culture that is all about 'being your own boss', how do you think the narrative of being a follower interacts with our families, schools, and workplaces, etc.?

### Read together Exodus 33:1-6,12-16

1. The people of Israel had just finished having a worship party, just not for God. How is our desire to be close to God connected to patterns of our guilt, and how does that differ from what we read about the heart of Moses?

General Question: We can get fixated on the future that God has for us, but how can that also colour the way we see things in our life now? How can we anticipate what God has for us next while living in what God has for us now in a healthy way?

### Read together Psalm 23

1. How does the busyness and speed of our culture impact how you interact with our faith? What are the ways that you've discovered to fight busyness, and discover true rest?
2. Why do you think God takes us through challenges instead of taking challenges away from us? Are there moments in your life where you recognized how you were refined by hardship?