

## BIG IDEA

God's delay doesn't mean God's denial.

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Share a story about a time when waiting paid off or when you rushed and things fell apart. What did you learn?

**Read Isaiah 40: 21-31.** How would you paraphrase this passage?

Isaiah is making a comparison here between the eternal God and those He has created. God sees from the beginning of time and has a different perspective on waiting and faithfulness.

**Re-read Isaiah 40:27-31.** Can you relate to Israel? Why or why not?

This was a tumultuous time for the nation of Israel. Their once powerful nation is falling around them. They may feel like God has forgotten them. Isaiah reminds the people that God is a great God and he is not overwhelmed or weary from the struggle. He offers that peace to each person who follows him faithfully.

How does this passage apply to us in our times of waiting?

People grow weary pretty easily when waiting on God. We expect movement now. When the creator gives us his perspective, we can find rest and peace in the process.

What role does "hope" play in this passage?

Verse 28 points out that God does not grow faint. The following verse is a promise to strengthen those who do. The passage concludes with the reassurance that those who wait on God do not wait in vain.

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

**Read Hebrews 10:36-39.** What do you think it means to live by faith?

In all of our lives, faith requires trust and at some point waiting. The writer of Hebrews is calling his readers to endure through these seasons of waiting.

Are you typically an active waiter or a passive waiter? Support your answer?

Do you "shrink back" when waiting on God? How so?

How can taking short cuts hinder maturity?





# LIFE GROUPS

## LEADER GUIDE

### WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

**Read Romans 5:1-5.** How is God producing character in you? Are you leaning in or shrinking back?

When trials come, we often look for the quick way out rather than looking for what God is doing. Character development takes time. Like going to the gym to get fit. There is no easy way to maturity.

How can you give hope to those around you that are in a “waiting” season?

What does it look like for you to wait well on God (actively, purposefully)?

When we actively wait on God, we can show faithfulness in our pursuit of him with daily quiet times and serving in our community. When we become passive, we tend to isolate ourselves and shrink back waiting for God to give us what we want.

How will you practice stillness, faithfulness and hopefulness this week?

**Encourage your group to pay attention to their thought life this week. When do they get impatient? How do they think about God when they are forced to wait? What assumptions are under the surface? Asking ourselves these questions will help us to uncover areas of busyness, mistrust and doubt. How we wait for the little things is influencing how we will act in more serious circumstances, so it is important to pay attention!**

