

Waiting Well
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon
and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group.
For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the
questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.
Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***When the odds seem stacked against you, that's when God
works in miraculous ways.***

[1 Samuel 13:8-14, NIV]

8 *He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. 9* **9** *So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10* **10** *Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. 11* **11** *"What have you done?" asked Samuel.*

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, 12 **12** *I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."*

13 *"You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14* **14** *But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has*

sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

A LOOK AT SAUL'S LIFE—

- 1. He failed to build a personal relationship with God.**

[1 Samuel 13:11-12, NIV]

11 ...Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, 12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor...'"

- 2. He failed to reference God's track record.**

[Jeremiah 32:27, ESV] (ESV)

27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"

[Job 42:2, NLT]

2 "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you."

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- 3. He failed to align Himself with the Word of God and simply obey.**

[1 Samuel 13:12, NIV]

12 "I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

[1 Samuel 13:13-14, NIV]

13 *“You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”*

[1 Samuel 15:22, NLT]

22 *But Samuel replied,*

*“What is more pleasing to the Lord:
your burnt offerings and sacrifices
or your obedience to his voice?”*

*Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice,
and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.*

LESSONS LEARNED FROM DAVID’S LIFE—

- 1. David completely trusted God because of a close and consistent relationship.**

[Psalm 27:4, TPT]

*Here’s the one thing I crave from God,
the one thing I seek above all else:*

I want the privilege of living with him every moment in his house, finding the sweet loveliness of his face, filled with awe, delighting in his glory and grace.

I want to live my life so close to him that he takes pleasure in my every prayer.

[Psalm 56:3]

But in the day that I’m afraid, I lay all my fears before you and trust in you with all my heart.

[Psalm 71:1]

*In You, O LORD, I put my trust;
Let me never be put to shame.*

[Psalm 9:10]

*Those who know (to know by experience) your name trust in you,
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*

2. When under pressure, David refused to implement his own agenda and timeline.

3. We wait well when we allow the pressure of waiting to drive us closer to the Lord instead of further away.

There's always a gap between promise and fulfillment; what we do in the waiting matters.

[Psalm 27:13-14]

I remain confident of this:

*I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.*

Wait for the LORD;

*be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.*

Complete trust in God is the antidote to anxiety.

Waiting well deals a death blow to self-promotion; where we go under pressure determines destiny.

THREEFOLD CORD: PRESENCE—PURPOSE—WAITING WELL

[Isaiah 40:29-31]

He gives power to the weak,

*And to those who have **no might** He increases strength.*

Even the youths shall faint and be weary,

And the young men shall utterly fall,

But those who wait on 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.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Write down God's track record, His victories both in the Bible and in your own life.
2. Meditate on and take time to declare Psalm 27.
3. Practice moments of simple obedience and build trust.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. When everything re-opens, what are you looking forward to most?
2. What do you think it looks like to wait well in-between the promise and the fulfillment?
3. In your time of waiting, what is the "command of the Lord" for you personally?
4. Are you acting in obedience to that command, or are you focusing on things in your life that might be "good," but not "God?" What is helping or hurting?
5. How did David build a close, consistent relationship with God? How does that contrast with Saul's life?
6. What is the last thing God told you to do, and are you doing it?
7. Pray for God to use the personal pressures we are facing to push us to complete trust in Him.