

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Great Expectations
Part 1: "An Expectant Life"
Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced 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 small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Psalm 5:3]

*In the morning, LORD, you will hear my voice;
in the morning I will lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.*

[Ephesians 3:20-21]

*Now to him who is **able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his **power that is at work within us,***** to him be

glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

[Hebrews 13:8, AMP]

Jesus Christ is [eternally changeless, always] the same yesterday and today and forever.

[Habakkuk 3:2]

*LORD, I have heard of your fame;
and I stand in awe of your deeds.
Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known;*

RIGHT EXPECTATIONS:

- Expect salvation & eternal life (John 10:9 -John 3:16)
- Expect forgiveness when we pray (1 John 1:9)
- Expect the Holy Spirit to fill our lives (Luke 11:9-13)
- Expect financial provision (Matt 6:31-34)
- Expect everything we need (Phil 4:19)
- Expect healing (Psalm 103:2-3)
- Expect wisdom and direction (James 1:5)
- Expect recovery and restoration (Joel 2:25)
- Expect peace of mind (Isaiah 26:3- Phil 4:7)
- Expect to be people of influence (Genesis 12:2)
- Expect to live with more than enough to be generous (2 Corinthians 9:8)
- Expect to live an overcoming life! (Romans 8:37)

Your level of expectation determines the level of your life!

Matthew 9:29

“According to your faith (expectation) so be it unto you.”

[1 Chronicles 4:3]

These were the sons of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma and Idbash. Their sister was named Hazzelelponi. Penuel was the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah...

[1 Chronicles 4:9-10]

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.” Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.

“...And God granted his request”

Our expectation is revealed in the request we are presenting to
God

4 expectations from Jabez:

1. Expect God to bless you and increase his favor on your life.

“...Oh, that you would bless me”

2. Expect God to increase your influence and your “territory.”

“...that you would enlarge my territory”

3. Expect God to give you guidance and clarity for the future.

"...and that Your hand would be with me"

4. Expect God to keep you from temptation, sin and failure.

"That You would keep me from evil so that it does not hurt me!"

[Psalm 5:3]

*In the morning, LORD, you will hear my voice;
in the morning I will lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.*

- **Set aside time** in the morning
- **Align your expectations** with God's promises
- **Lay out your request** (*journal*)
- **Trust God's timing** to fulfill your expectation
- **Wait in faith** (expectation)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever had someone "bless you," and what did that look like? (could be as simple as a salutation after a sneeze)**
- 2. What's the difference between faith expectation and presumption in our prayers?**
- 3. How does your level of expectation determine the level and quality of your life?**
- 4. What is one thing you're requesting from God in your life or family right now? Do you find yourself more bold and expectant or apprehensive and reserve, and why?**