



Six Week Pursuit
Impact Culture

Dear Church Family,

I love the mountains. I love the call of the whispering streams, the rustling of the wild trees, the earthy aromas, the chorus of birds, and most of all: the serene solitude. Whether alone or with family and friends, there is a sense of solace and escape in the country; a freedom and rest that cannot be found in the heart of civilization. If you have not experienced the breath of the wild, then I highly recommend giving a hike or camping trip a try.

Not too long ago, I was wrapped up in an incredibly stressful season. In the midst of this time, I was compelled to go to the mountains for the day. I determined to go alone, armed only with my Bible, notebook, water, and lunch. I can honestly say I have yet to experience a more refreshing day in my life.

"You need to wait."

I must be honest, there were no astounding revelations from God during my stay in the mountains. I did not hear God's audible voice, see the heavens open, or meet an angel. But, what I did experience was genuine refreshment. I returned to my busy life rejuvenated, calmed and with a sense that God would take care of everything. That, in its own way I suppose, is an astounding revelation from God. I guess I had a revelation after all!

I was refreshed

Crazy as it is, Jesus Himself often sought solitude. Though He is God and all-sufficient, Jesus demonstrated for us the value of waiting and resting. Time and time again throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus seeking escape and solace in the midst of His busy ministry. And in such times, He desperately sought after His father and His will. The greatest

example of this is when just before Jesus was arrested, He sought to pray with his disciples.

The disciples, Jesus' friends, did not pray. Instead, when the going got tough and Jesus was arrested, the disciples scattered like dust in the wind. They abandoned their Messiah, Savior, God, and friend. I

wonder what would have happened if they had waited.

And when he came to the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not enter into temptation.'"

- Luke 22:40

Waiting is intentional stopping. And God's Definition of waiting requires you to stop what you want to do. While waiting can be viewed as passive, more often than not, it requires constant refocus and determination. Waiting demands you make a decision to, well, wait. Losing our patience, growing bored and giving up are passive responses to waiting. They are automatic gestures and often lead to more frustration rather than solving the problem. Waiting is difficult. No one likes waiting.

"You need to wait."

Something we do not discuss much from the Bible is the concept of the Sabbath; a day of rest. Now most of us would say, "Amen!" to that day of rest. However, we must understand this day of rest requires us to wait and stay with God. A Sabbath is not a vacation. A Sabbath is not a hunting expedition. A Sabbath is a day given to God; a day where we stop what we are doing and wait. Have you ever tried this? It is **counter-cultural**, and making this change in your life will **IMPACT** your **CULTURE!**

God wants you to wait.

Now there is a problem many of us face: ourselves. What about our families? What about our kids? Well, can I ask a question? What about them? There is a lot of Biblical evidence pointing to teaching our families and children the practice of taking a Sabbath. It is no easy undertaking, but is a worthwhile investment. Your kids need to wait on God just as much as you do.

Our children are a lot like Disciples; they need Jesus to show them how to pray. Sure, they may grow bored at first and fall asleep, however, like the disciples, in time they too shall learn to wait. When they do, God will begin to work in their lives in a crazy way.

Waiting in this busy world is difficult and discouraged by society. But I promise you, there is a reward in waiting. Your soul will find refreshment, your spirit will be uplifted, your outlook will be renewed, and your energy will be restored.

You have nothing to lose. It is time to IMPACT CULTURE and wait. Jesus has an amazing work for you, your family, and your friends, just as He did for His disciples. A promise lies ahead and it is worth staying and waiting for. So, church family, let's change our CULTURE. Let's learn together to wait and sit with Jesus.

With Love,

Pastor Vern Pastor Ly

"And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But STAY in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

-Luke 24:49

Group Discussion

Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions with your group.

1. Have you ever experienced a refreshing day? What did you do? How did you feel before and after your refreshing experience?
2. If God took a Sabbath after creating everything, how important is it for us to do the same? What would a Sabbath look like for you? What would you do?
3. We've all found it hard to wait for that next paycheck, or for God to intervene. What do you struggle waiting for? Why is it hard for you to wait for it?
4. - What obstacles could get in the way of your Sabbath? What distractions do you have that may interrupt your Sabbath? How can you combat and overcome them to preserve your time with God?
5. How can maintaining a Sabbath help to IMPACT your CULTURE?

Closing Prayer

Close your time together in prayer. Here are a few ideas of what you could pray about based on the topic of today's discussion:

Jesus help us to:

- make time for you a priority in our lives.
- Be more patient.
- Learn to wait on you.
- Impact our Culture.

**Humans
spend
about
2 YEARS
of their
lives
WAITING
in line.**
- Sara Pacella TR

Weekly Challenge

This week, devote one whole day to the Lord. Spend that day in prayer, worship, and study of His word. If you can't do an entire day, challenge yourself to devote 1 hour every day to the Lord. This doesn't mean you stay home and watch a televangelist or take a nap. No, this is a time to reflect on what the Lord has done in your life, to communicate with Him, and to praise God.



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KID'S KORNER

Questions

If you have children, here are some questions you can go over with them.

1. What does it mean to wait?
2. What do you have a hard time waiting for? Why is it so hard to wait for it?
3. If you could spend an hour with God, what would you do with Him or for Him?
4. What do you do to relax? How can you do that for Jesus or with Him?

Want More?

Check us out at riversidelighthouse.org for at-home activities, coloring pages, and much more to IMPACT YOUR CULTURE!

Closing Prayer

Pray together as a family. Here are a few ideas of what you could pray about.

Jesus help us to:

- Be more patient.
- Spend more time with you.
- Talk to you more.

THE EXTREME CHALLENGE

Do you have what it takes to conquer this challenge?

Ask your parents to help you start a prayer journal. Your prayer journal can be notebook paper, a special journal, or anything you can write on and keep track of. Use your prayer journal to talk with God! Think of it as a pen pal: someone you write letters to and become friends with. Because that's just it, Jesus is your friend and He wants to be better friends with YOU! See if you can use your prayer journal every day this week!