

Week Four: *When the Wait is Over*
Galatians 4:4-7

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Have you heard the phrase, “God is never late, but seldom early”? What does it mean?
2. What’s the advantage of forcing a child (or yourself) to wait rather than always receiving instant gratification?
3. Read James 5:7-9. What example of patience is mentioned? Why is that a good illustration of waiting for the Lord? Can a farmer predict the outcome of his crop? What might happen, good or bad? How is that like waiting on the Lord?
4. The farmer must rely on outcomes beyond his control. How is that the same for you? How is it different?
5. Continue the reading from James 5:10-11. Do you think most would assume that someone like a prophet would be under great blessing from God because of their dedication and sacrifice? Was that the case? Why is it important for us to remember this?
6. Why is the example of Job a good one for us to consider when it comes to patiently enduring hardship? Were Job’s troubles a result of Job’s unfaithfulness? How did it ultimately turn out for Job? See Job 42:12-16 for insight.
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for greater patience while you await deliverance from your struggles.

Spend FIFTEEN- Day Two

8. Read Luke 2:25-26. Who was Simeon and what was he waiting to see?
9. What had God allowed Simeon to know?
10. One of the key principles of effective leadership is to “Begin with the end in mind.” Why is that so helpful?
11. How does focusing on the desired outcome help determine the strategy and steps to achieve the goal?
12. Read Jeremiah 29:11. Do you know the historic circumstance surrounding this promise of God? Why do you suppose God made this promise at such a hard time in the life of His people?

13. What assurance has God given you in His Word, while you await your rescue or the second coming of Christ? (See Hebrews 13:5 or John 10:10 for examples.)
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to trust more completely in the good outcome God has planned for you.

Spend FIFTEEN- Day Three

15. Read Galatians 4:4-7. People had waited for centuries for God to fulfill His promise of a Savior. When the time was right, He fulfilled His promise. What were the conditions in Israel at the time? How did the historic circumstance of the Roman Empire, and the Greek domination before that, serve God's purpose?
16. What is the significance that Jesus was born of a woman?
17. What is the significance that Jesus was born under the law?
18. Read John 1:11-13. How are we made *children of God*? (See John 3:3-8 for additional insight.)
19. Why does God want us to know we are His children? According to Galatians 4:4-7, what is the major distinction between a child and a slave?
20. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray a prayer of gratitude for your status as a child of God and to grasp more fully the significance of that fact.

Spend FIFTEEN- Day Four

21. Did you ever have to wait a long time for something important? Graduation, certification, the birth of a child, marriage, or a job promotion? Was the wait worth it?
22. Did the waiting make the moment more special?
23. What did you learn by waiting?
24. Are you more or less patient than you were five or six years ago? Why?
25. In Galatians 5:22-23, patience is called a *fruit of the Spirit*. In other words, those who are mature of faith have greater patience than those who are less mature. Why is patience considered such a good thing in life? Can you be too

patient?

26. As one who has waited for something important, what responsibility do you feel towards those who are still waiting for an important outcome? How can you help them?
27. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for those you know who are impatiently waiting on the Lord's Deliverance.

Spend FIFTEEN-Day Five

28. Why do you think Christmas is considered the most important celebration of the entire year by most people in the world?
29. What aspect of the birth of Jesus is most significant to you?
30. Were Mary and Joseph's troubles over when Jesus was finally born? What else were they about to face?
31. What lessons have you learned through patience that can serve you well in the days to come?
32. Why was Jesus, the Son of God and the Savior of the whole world, subjected to such a humble birth? What purpose did it serve then? What purpose does it serve us now?
33. Look again at Galatians 4:4-7. What does this teach us about God's timing? How can we incorporate the lessons we have learned this month about waiting into our everyday life?
34. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray a prayer of thanks that God was willing to enter our world and experience first-hand our struggle before conquering sin, death and the devil and that He now (with the knowledge of our weakness and hardship) intercedes for us before God the Father in Heaven.