

## 1. Motivate

What was a bad unexpected delay you've been forced to endure?

- traffic backup
- got every red light on the way to an important meeting
- delayed or canceled flight
- in doctor's office – doc called out on emergency
- pregnancy went beyond the 36 weeks
- days (weeks?) waiting to hear about job acceptance
- waiting for plumber/internet/cable guy (between 8AM and 5PM)
- waiting for rain
- got tickets for a pro sports game – delayed for weather

## 2. Transition

Some delays are easier to deal with than others.

- Today we look at a time when Jesus told the disciples to “wait”.
- God can use unexpected downtime to prepare us for what's next.

## 3. Bible Study

### 3.1 A Season of Waiting

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/4mdtsuah> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, download the video file from <https://tinyurl.com/3epjk3mf>

Listen for instructions.

Acts 1:4-8 (NIV) On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

According to verse 4, who were those who assembled and what instructions were they given?

- the “them” appears to be the disciples (now eleven)
- Don't leave Jerusalem
- wait for the gift God the Father promised
- remember, I talked about it previously

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## When a Time of Inactivity Slows You Down

When have you experienced a season of waiting on the Lord?

- time in the hospital
- weeks out of work
- waiting for confirmation of college acceptance
- time to finish paying off a loan
- waiting for medical results
- did I pass that test?

What are words and phrases that describe the promise made to His followers.

- you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit
- you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you
- you will be my witnesses
- you will start out in Jerusalem
- you will continue on to Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

The disciples asked a question that seems to be unrelated to the instructions and promises. "*Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?*"

How did this show their misunderstanding about God's Kingdom that Jesus talked about?

- they thought it was a physical, political, military kingdom
- they thought it had to do with getting rid of Roman domination
- this was a long time Jewish yearning for a restored earthly kingdom
- they longed for a kingdom like that during the days of David and Solomon

Why do you think the rule of God within the lives of believers was/is more powerful for God's purposes than throwing aside Roman rule in Israel?

- individuals are the ones who spread the Gospel message – not a specific nation
- God's purposes are not nationalism, God wants people to hear about salvation
- God wants disciples ... people who follow and serve Him
- God's agenda is not national, it is personal

How does verse 8 of the passage apply to us today?

- God promises us that same power, that same relationship
- we also are to be witnesses
- our witness starts in our own neighborhood
- our witness continues out from our own city, to our state, to our nation
- we are to be actively involved in the spread of the Gospel "to the ends of the earth"
- we are to give of our finances,
- participate in mission trips,
- be willing to send our children and grandchildren as missionaries to far off places

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## When a Time of Inactivity Slows You Down

### 3.2 Season of Growing Closer to God

Listen for who, what, when, where.

Acts 1:12-14 (NIV) Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

So then what did they do after Jesus' ascension?

- returned to Jerusalem
- went upstairs to the room where they were staying
- they joined together constantly in prayer

Notice that prayer was the first thing they did. Why do we sometimes consider prayer as the last thing we try?

- we are a "can do" culture, we believe we can figure it out on our own
- we can find a doctor who will solve the problem
- we look to government to fund something or legislate a solution
- find an expert, hire a lawyer

What do you suppose they were praying about?

- asking for guidance
- claiming the promises Jesus had given them
- asking God when this baptism of the Holy Spirit would take place

Consider that we can claim those same promises when we face our "gazing into the sky" experiences ... and ... we *already* have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit

How is praying with others for a common mission different from your personal prayers?

- we agree together in prayer
- we can claim the promise of God ... Consider Matthew 18:19 (NIV) "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.
- we unite for the purpose of seeking God, sharing our burdens
- we know that our prayers are not just personal "wishes" but are the consensus of the group
- somehow our faith is encouraged ... we become more convinced in our unity that we can trust God

What common mission can our group pray for together?

- community outreach
- physical, financial, spiritual needs of people around us at work, in neighborhood, in church
- our nation, elections, current affairs
- our leaders – church leadership, community, state, and national government leaders
- foreign and local missionary activity

### 3.3 Season of Empowerment

Listen for physical and spiritual phenomena.

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

What special, supernatural evidence was displayed in this event?

- sound like the blowing of a violent wind
- appearance of “tongues of fire” resting on the believers
- they began to speak in other tongues, enabled by the Spirit

What was the significance of these phenomena ?

The wind?

- recall Jesus comments about the source of the wind not being known, but the results of its force being seen
- the power represented by wind, even by the acoustic power of the sound itself
- God was making a display to engage all the senses
- could this have been to communicate to people of all learning styles?!!

The fire?

- similar to previous biblical events ... Moses and the burning bush, fire coming down from heaven to consume the sacrifice on an altar
- another power demonstration
- could signify light ... the enlightening power of the Gospel message
- once again, a phenomenon to capture another sense

The speaking in foreign languages?

- this accomplished two things
  - o visitors to Jerusalem were amazed at the sudden ability of these people to speak in their own foreign language
  - o the message communicated was the Gospel message
- the total combination was what we today might call a multimedia experience

In what ways do we need God’s Holy Spirit to help us to witness to others about salvation?

- help us memorize verses and remember what we are supposed to say
- help us get over being afraid
- prepare the hearts of those to whom we will speak
- open up opportunities where people are more interested and open than we could ever imagine

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.



Family Discussion Guide

### Application

#### Focus on Scripture.

- Read Isaiah 40:31 and meditate on these words.
- Hide God's Word in your heart for those future times when you will once again find yourself waiting on the Lord and trusting in Him.

#### Focus on Christ.

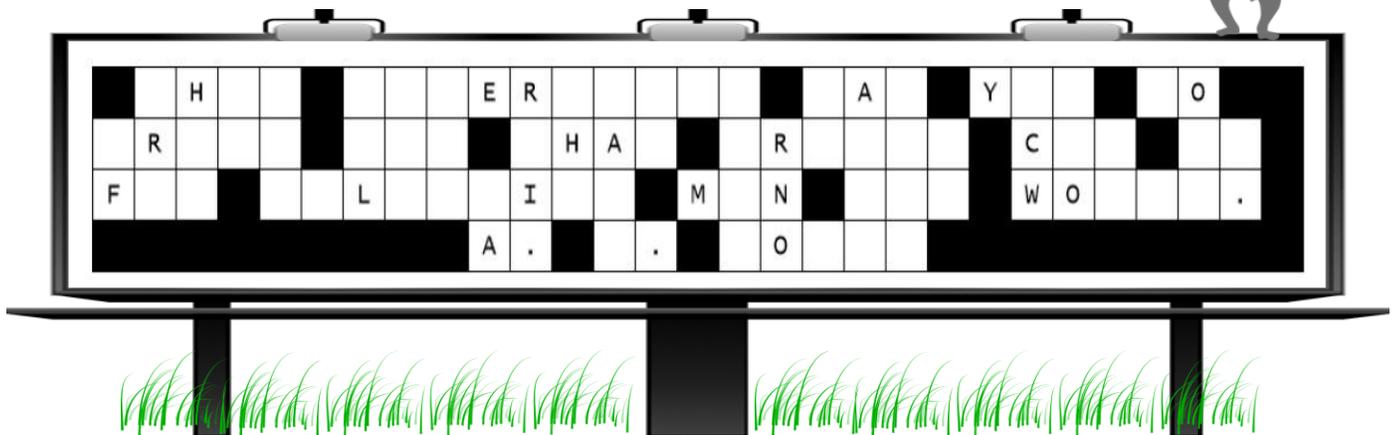
- When you find yourself in a situation when you are forced to wait, intercept negative reactions by directing your thoughts to Christ.
- Develop this response through repetition.
- Open your mind and heart to Him instead of swimming in the circumstances.

#### Build a cohort.

- Ask God to help you find believers with whom you can share your heart.
- Develop mutual trust by waiting together in prayerful hope.



### Fallen Phrases Puzzle



T N  
 B L N T E H Y R  
 O R I E G E L N W T N Z A E D T N E D  
 P T O V S E A I E V T A G I O P A E S R E A M T N O

Gawrsh, looks like some kinda kooky mad scientist feller went and tinkered with the church sign! Heh heh—he musta done somethin' funny to the glue, 'cause a bunch o' letters just plopped straight down! We could sure use yer help stickin' 'em back where they belong. Start with the easy ones—ya know, the single letters. Then mosey on over to the two and three-letter blanks and see if ya can make some real words outta what fell. If ya want help or the Crossword, go to <https://tinyurl.com/3epjk3mf> And when yer all done, don't forget to tell the youth pastor, hyuck!"

