

ONE FROM THE HEART

In the Waiting

Do you remember book club at primary school? Do you know what I'm talking about? That acute sense of waiting... Eager anticipation, the certain knowledge of what's coming, but knowing that it isn't yet...

We're going to talk about 'the waiting' and the process of what God is doing in the waiting.

Active and Passive

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."
– John Lennon

Waiting is a natural part of the human experience. For generations, we waited for our food to grow, for our food to produce baby food so that we could eat (at least) one of them!

And I can forgive us for missing this in our discipleship journey with Jesus. We don't hear the stories of the waiting, we hear the stories of the breakthrough.

Waiting happens in scripture a lot:

- + Abraham and Sarah
- + Joseph
- + Moses
- + Joshua
- + David
- + Elijah
- + Paul (Galatians 1:15-2:1)

What was happening in all these amazing biblical figures in their times of waiting?

Strength-Building

Life is happening right now. This is life, this is a chance for God to do something.

The 10,000 hour principle.

What if the times of waiting weren't punishment, or periods of inactivity, but instead, we looked at these hidden times, the times out of sight of the world, of the people around us, as times of preparation?

What does that look like for us as a people?

What is God saying to you?

It's about waiting *in* relationship.

Stories from the Waiting

In the preparation time, that's where the real stuff is formed in us – transformation!

The waiting time is where we can move from the milk of our conversion to the meat of intimacy – the abiding.

What if the waiting is God getting your attention so that He can do what He needs to do?

Hosea 2:1, 14-14

This is what I think happens to us as we pursue Him in our moments of waiting, of preparation, of seeking Him:

- + He draws us to Himself, into places that might seem dry and difficult...
- + He speaks tenderly to us... (This was Israel, but God doesn't change!)
- + He gives us fruitfulness (vineyards – remember?)
- + He turns trouble into an opening of hope!
- + And the result of this? Renewal! Reinvigoration! Deliverance, a fresh start, new hope!

What is happening in your waiting? What is happening in OUR waiting?

Discussion Questions

1. What does waiting look like in your life? Have there been periods of waiting that you've been through? How did you handle them?

2. The waiting that people go through in scripture is often long and repeated. Spend some time looking up the people listed above and see where and how they had to wait in their lives. What do you notice? What can you learn from them, or what do you resonate with?

3. How would it re-frame how you wait if you saw it as preparation, not passive waiting or inaction? How would you think, act and reflect differently?

4. Is there anything stopping you from doing that in your season of waiting?

5. Read Hosea 2:14-15. What could (or does) this process look like in your life? Have you experienced God doing this for you in your relationship with Him?

6. What is God doing in your identity when you are waiting and preparing? What actions and activities is He stirring in you as part of that preparation?

7. What can you commit to putting in place in this next season, as you let God form you?