

Waiting for the Promise of a Breakthrough Personal or group-based guide for additional study

Scripture Focus: Genesis 18:14; Proverbs 3:5-6

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His timing and promises in each person's life.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you had to wait for something important. How did the waiting period change you or prepare you for what came next?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- 1. **Waiting is not a bad thing** it gives God time to prepare our hearts for what He's about to give us
- 2. **Don't get ahead of God** When God gives a promise, trust His timing
- 3. **Don't doubt God** Nothing is too hard for the Lord
- 4. God is worth waiting for He always keeps His promises

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Understanding God's Timing (15 minutes)

- 1. The pastor mentioned that "waiting gives you time to receive it." What does this mean to you? Can you think of a time when God's delay was actually His protection or preparation?
- 2. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 together. What does it mean practically to "lean not on your own understanding" when you're waiting for a breakthrough?
- 3. How does having a "microwave mind" (wanting everything instantly) affect our relationship with God and our spiritual growth?



Part 2: Learning from Abraham and Sarah (15 minutes)

- 4. Sarah tried to help God fulfill His promise by giving Hagar to Abraham. What are some modern-day examples of how we "get ahead of God" when waiting becomes difficult?
- 5. Sarah laughed when she heard God's promise because she thought she was too old. What situations in your life seem "too hard" for God? How does the question "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" challenge your thinking?
- 6. The pastor mentioned that unbelief "slows things down" and "causes us to make other decisions than trusting God." Have you experienced this in your own life? Share if you're comfortable.

Part 3: Personal Application (15 minutes)

- 7. The pastor shared that God taught him to write down promises in a book and check them off as God fulfills them. What do you think about this practice? Would this help strengthen your faith?
- 8. How can we tell the difference between:
 - Waiting patiently on God's timing
 - Missing an opportunity because we're being passive
 - Getting ahead of God by forcing something in our own strength?
- 9. What promise from God are you currently waiting on? How has this sermon encouraged or challenged you regarding that situation?

Key Scripture Reflection (10 minutes)

Read Genesis 18:14 together: "Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed, I will return unto you according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

- What does "at the time appointed" tell us about God's nature?
- How does this verse speak to your current season of waiting?



Practical Applications
This Week's Challenge:
Choose ONE of the following to practice:

- 1. Start a Promise Journal
 - Write down what you believe God has promised you
 - Record the date and circumstances
 - Leave space to record when and how God fulfills it
 - Use it as a tool for thanksgiving and praise

2. Practice Active Waiting

- Instead of just waiting passively, ask God daily: "What do You want me to learn during this season?"
- Continue doing what God has you doing now with excellence and faithfulness
- Look for ways God might be preparing you for what's coming

3. Examine Your Heart

- Identify one area where you might be trying to "get ahead of God"
- Confess it and surrender it back to Him
- Ask God for the faith to wait on His perfect timing

4. Declare God's Faithfulness

- Make a list of past promises God has kept in your life
- Share your testimony with someone who's struggling to wait
- *Use your story to encourage faith in others*

Accountability Questions

- What specific promise are you waiting on God to fulfill?
- How will you remind yourself this week that "waiting is not a bad thing"?
- Who can you share your journey with for encouragement and accountability?



Closing Exercise (10 minutes) Group Prayer Focus:

Go around the circle and have each person share (if comfortable):

- 1. One thing they're waiting on God for
- 2. One way they need to trust God's timing more

Then pray for each person specifically, declaring that:

- God keeps His promises
- His timing is perfect
- Nothing is too hard for the Lord
- The breakthrough is coming

Memory Verse for the Week

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Before Next Week

- Journal about your waiting journey this week
- Note any moments when you're tempted to doubt or get ahead of God
- Record any insights God gives you about His timing
- Be prepared to share one testimony of God's faithfulness (past or present)

Closing Prayer: Thank God for His perfect timing, His faithfulness to His promises, and His preparation of our hearts for the breakthroughs He has planned.