

Expectations Small Group Guide: "When We Trust, God Moves"

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question:

Share about a time when you had to trust someone completely (like a doctor, a pilot, or a friend). What made it easy or difficult to trust them?

Key Scripture Review (5 minutes)

Read together:

- **Mark 11:22–24** – "Have faith in God... whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."
- **Proverbs 3:5–6** – "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."

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Trust Activates God's Movement (15 minutes)

1. **The sermon stated that "faith is the currency of the Kingdom." What does this phrase mean to you?** How does it change the way you approach prayer and your relationship with God?

2. **Review the biblical examples mentioned:**

- The woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20-22)
- The centurion (Matthew 8:5-13)
- Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)

What common threads do you see in these stories? What did their trust look like in action?

3. **The sermon emphasized that trust is not passive but active pursuit.** In what area of your life is God calling you to actively pursue Him rather than passively wait?

Section 2: Expectation + Trust = Spiritual Readiness (15 minutes)

4. **What is the difference between wishful thinking and biblical expectation?** Can you think of a time when you confused the two?

5. **The sermon mentioned that when we expect God to move, we pray, worship, wait, and respond differently.** Which of these four areas do you struggle with most when waiting on God?

6. **Read Psalm 63:1-3 and Matthew 6:33 together.** How do we balance seeking God's face (His presence) with bringing our needs before Him? Why is it important to seek Him first rather than just His blessings?

7. **"Expectation without trust leads to frustration. Trust without expectation leads to stagnation."** Have you experienced either of these? Share your story.

Section 3: God Moves When We Release Control (15 minutes)

8. **Proverbs 3:5 tells us to "lean not on your own understanding."** What area of your life are you currently trying to figure out on your own instead of surrendering to God?

9. **The sermon stated that "control is the enemy of trust."** Why is it so hard for us to release control? What fears come up when we think about surrendering fully to God?

10. **Reflect on the two illustrations:**

- **The Tightrope Walker** – Belief says "God can." Trust says "God, I'm getting in."

- **The Child Jumping** – Trust is relational, not logical.

Which illustration resonates with you more and why? How can you apply this to your current situation?

11. **The sermon listed areas where we need to trust God: finances, health, family, calling, identity, and future.** Which area is hardest for you to trust God with right now? Why?

Key Takeaways (5 minutes)

Have group members share which of these truths stood out most to them:

- Faith is the posture that says: "God, I believe You can and will do what You said."
- Trust is not sitting back; it is stepping forward.
- Expectation sharpens your spiritual senses.
- Direction comes after surrender.
- Where trust grows, God moves.

Practical Application (10 minutes)

Personal Reflection & Action Steps

This Week's Challenge:

1. **Identify Your Wheelbarrow Moment**

- Where is God asking you to "get in the wheelbarrow" this week? Write down one specific area where you need to move from belief to trust.

2. **Practice Active Trust**

- Choose one of these actions:
 - Reach out (like the woman with the issue of blood)
 - Call out (like Bartimaeus)
 - Speak boldly (like the centurion)

What does active trust look like in your situation?

3. ****Release Control Daily****

- Each morning this week, pray Proverbs 3:5-6 and specifically surrender one area of your life to God. Journal about what happens when you let go.

4. ****Create an Expectation List****

- Write down 3-5 specific things you are expecting God to do. Keep this list visible and pray over it daily with trust and anticipation.

Accountability Partner

Pair up with someone in the group to check in with during the week about your trust journey.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 minutes)

****Prayer Prompts:****

- Thank God for being trustworthy and faithful
- Confess areas where you've been holding onto control
- Ask for increased faith and expectation
- Pray specifically for the areas group members shared (finances, health, family, calling, identity, future)

- Declare together: "Where trust grows, God moves"

****Closing Declaration:****

"Lord, we choose to trust You with all our hearts. We release our need to understand and control. We expect You to move in our lives. We're getting in the wheelbarrow. Direct our paths. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For Further Study

- Read Hebrews 11 (The Faith Hall of Fame)
- Study the life of Abraham and how his trust was tested and grew
- Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6 as a group this week

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for vulnerability when discussing areas of struggle with trust
- Be prepared to share your own trust journey to encourage transparency
- Have tissues available—trust conversations can be emotional
- Follow up with anyone who shares a significant need or struggle
- Consider starting a group text thread for daily encouragement throughout the week