



## **Week Five: Persisting in Faith – Study Guide**

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In our fast-paced world, waiting can seem like a foreign idea. Yet, when you think about it, most of us are waiting for something. It may be a job promotion, buying a new house, having another child, getting married—the list is endless. Learning to wait on God’s timing instead of ours is something we all are working on. Let’s dive in to see what we can learn about waiting in this study.

### **Where Am I Today?**

- 1) It’s a brand new year! 2013 is history and 2014 has arrived! When you reflect on last year, are there things you were waiting for that came to fruition? Share with your group. Is there something you are still waiting for that didn’t happen last year? If so, what is it?

### **Into the Bible**

- 2) Consider the feeling of God giving you a promise and yet you aren’t sure when it is going to happen. You just need to wait and trust God’s timing. That’s what happened to a man named Simeon. **Read Luke 2:25-35** to learn more. What is some evidence that Simeon had a strong relationship with God?

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- 3) There was another person, named Anna, who also was waiting for the Messiah to appear. Read about her in **Luke 2:36-38**. What did Anna do while she waited? What happened when she heard about Jesus?
- 4) It's easy to grow tired while we wait for God to work in our lives; yet there is payoff to waiting patiently. Take a look at the promises that God gives to those who wait on Him. Read **Isaiah 40:31** and **Lamentations 3:22-26**.  
What promise does Isaiah give us when it comes to waiting, and how can this be hard at times? In Lamentations, we read about how the Lord is good to all who wait. Does that mean He will give us whatever we want? Why or why not?

### How Does This Apply?

- 5) Waiting can be God's way of growing our patience and trusting in His timing rather than ours. When we wait patiently, it presents a greater opportunity for God's power and presence to be experienced in our lives. How are you doing when it comes to waiting patiently on God? How have you experienced God's presence when you did wait patiently?

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- 6) Sometimes our waiting for something to happen is only a wish. Maybe God is asking you to stop wishing and start working with what He's given you today. If we don't work while we wait, we may end up wasting time and staring at pipe dreams. When you take a look at where you are currently, what are some things you are wishing for? How are you making the most of your time today to faithfully do the things you know He's called you to do?
- 7) Something not to overlook from Simeon's life is the fact that he knew when the Holy Spirit told him to go. The same is true in our lives today. There may be times when God isn't asking us to wait, but He's waiting on us to respond to His prompting to go. Have there been times when you knew God was telling you not to wait, but to go? What was the key to knowing that it was the Holy Spirit telling you to go?

### Continue Learning on Your Own

- 8) Just like Simeon and Anna, we are waiting for Jesus to come. Only we aren't waiting for Him to arrive for the first time, but we wait for Him to fulfill His promise of returning a second time. When He comes back, everything will change. In the meantime, He's called us to get busy with a specific mission.

**Read Matthew 28:18-20.** What is the mission Jesus is calling you to do and, if you are a Jesus follower, how are you accomplishing that mission? Does Jesus give any indication that this mission is optional? Why or why not?