**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Read All about It!**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [John 11:1–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.1-7), [20–45](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.20-45).

**Consider**

There were many moments when people encountered Jesus in this Bible story. What may be surprising is that most of these encounters didn’t take place until four days after Jesus heard His friend was sick. Jesus could have immediately left for His friends’ home in Bethany as soon as He heard about His friend, but He didn’t. Because of this decision, we see Martha and Mary’s grief. We hear their questions. We also see the bystanders who were giving their opinions. Waiting is hard on everyone.

But if we only focus on how waiting affects us, we miss what God wants to do. We want to get the solution to our prayers answered in the quickest way possible. We try to figure out what we can do to make the process go faster. We forget that God wants to spend time with us in our waiting. We must trust that God will be with us even as He answers in His way and in His time.

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| **QUESTION**  What did you learn about why God has us wait for His timing? |

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| **QUESTION**  What did you learn about God from this story? |

**Reflect**

Take a breath while you wait on God. Work on getting your thoughts and emotions into alignment with what God is telling you. Waiting on God doesn’t mean that we sit back and simply wait. Waiting means we’re actively watching for God to act. It’s believing that His timing is best, and He has our best interests in mind.

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| **QUESTION**  What part of waiting on God is difficult for you? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do you tend to give up, forget your need, or trust God when it comes to waiting for an answer? |

**Activate**

Use the word *WAIT* to make a reminder of how you will grow in waiting on God. For example, T could be “Trust in His Timing.” What would you say for W, A, and I?

**Pray**

Father God, thank You for being good and caring as I learn to wait on You. Thank You that my waiting is not wasted. Through waiting, I can grow in my trust in and dependence on You. I trust that when I am waiting, it’s because You are working things out. I love You, God. Amen.

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**Day 2: Be Brave**

**Engage**

Read [Psalm 27:4–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps27.4-14).

**Consider**

How do you wait? Do you constantly look at the clock when you’re waiting? Are you the type of person who can’t sleep the night before something big? Can you wait when you have a surprise for someone, or do you get impatient and tell them? In the moment, waiting can feel like it’s taking forever. The Psalmist reminds us in this passage that we should delight, meditate, and wait patiently for God. We should wait with courage!

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| **QUESTION**  How can meditating on Scriptures help us when we’re waiting? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why does delighting in the Lord help us while we’re waiting? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do bravery and courage have to do with being patient? |

**Reflect**

Knowing how to wait on God will make a difference. We can wait in uncertainty, or we can wait with peace. We can learn to wait quietly—putting our complete trust in Him. Or we can attempt to do things ourself—without Him.

Bravery and courage are needed as we wait. It takes a brave person to leave the outcome in God’s hands. So, the writer of [Psalm 27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps27) encourages us to meditate. This can involve reminding ourself that God is in control and has perfect timing when it comes to answering our prayers.

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| **QUESTION**  Have you ever felt abandoned by the Lord, like verse [9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps27.9) says? |

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| **QUESTION**  How does verse [10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps27.10) encourage you? |

**Activate**

Take a walk with your Bible app and make [Psalm 27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps27) a prayer. Ask God to help you delight in Him, meditate on His perfections, and wait patiently. Ask Him to help you to be brave and have courage to trust Him as you wait for Him to show you His will for whatever you are facing.

**Pray**

God, help me to be brave and courageous when You tell me to wait. Help me to wait expectantly and with anticipation for You to work in my life. I delight in You and desire to be with You in all situations. Help others who are waiting on You for something big, too. Give them patience and help them grow in trust. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 3: A Lesson from a Farmer**

**Engage**

Read [James 5:7–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas5.7-11).

**Consider**

We tend to struggle with waiting on God to answer our prayers. But like planting and harvesting, it takes time to see the growth of what is planted. So, could it be that we were created to be patient and wait for God’s timing? For example, God’s Word talks about us waiting for Jesus to return. We don’t know when He is coming back. We just know that He is. Consider the situations that make you wait on God to answer or act as actual opportunities to learn to wait until Jesus comes back. We must be patient as we watch for Jesus’ return.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think God thought we needed reminders to be patient? |

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| **QUESTION**  How is the example of a farmer similar to the times we need to wait? |

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| **QUESTION**  How does having patience help us to stay focused when we’re suffering? |

**Reflect**

When we start walking with Jesus, we learn more about Him. As we learn more about Him, we learn how to live as He lived. Jesus never seemed to be in a hurry. The life He lived gives us a perspective on how to live our life, too. Our patience can help us in suffering. It definitely helps us as we wait for Jesus to come back. It also helps us when we’re waiting on God to answer prayer.

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| **QUESTION**  On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not patient at all and 10 being very patient, how patient are you? Would those close to you agree with your answer? |

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| **QUESTION**  What are one or two things you can do to get your answer closer to 10? |

**Activate**

Type “Bible verses about being patient with God” into an Internet search engine. Look through the verses that appear as a result. Which one is your favorite?

**Pray**

God, help me to find opportunities that cultivate patience. When I start to feel frustrated or discouraged, help me to remember that I was created to wait, especially for You. Amen.

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**Day 4: My Way or the Highway**

**Engage**

Read [Genesis 16:1–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge16.1-15).

**Consider**

Your response to whether you choose to wait patiently on God or not can make a huge difference in your future. You read of Sarai, Abram’s wife. She was unable to have a child, and she didn’t do a great job of waiting on God. Just one chapter before, God had reassured Abram and Sarai that He would give them a son. Sarai had waited for some time for God to answer their prayers. In these verses, Sarai took matters into her own hands.

This is something we tend to do when we get impatient as we wait on God, too. We decide that God is taking too long, so we come up with a plan to help Him. Sarai’s plan backfired on her and her family, and it brought more grief and frustration. Others suffered because she chose to do things herself. Imagine if she had waited for God’s timing!

Note: Later, Sarai’s name was changed to Sarah, and Abram’s name was changed to Abraham. You may be more familiar with these names for this couple.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think Sarai took matters into her hands? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why do people get impatient with God like this? |

**Reflect**

Sarai had waited long enough—at least she thought so. But all along, God had a plan. The same is true for you. Unlike Sarai, you should respond with patience and wait to see how God is positioning you where you need to be. You also have a choice to say the waiting is too much and take matters into your own hands—just like Sarai and Abram did. Trusting that God has your best interests in His will can help you wait well and avoid making impulsive decisions.

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| **QUESTION**  Do you tend to take matters into your own hands rather than wait on God? If so, why? |

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| **QUESTION**  How will you choose to respond now, after reading what happened to Sarai and others when she didn’t wait on God’s plan and timing? |

**Activate**

Read chapter [17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge17) for the rest of the story. See how things changed for Abram and Sarai as they learned to wait on God.

**Pray**

God, help me to be aware when I am moving toward taking matters into my own hands. Show me what the consequences might be. Thank You that even if I have messed up, You will still have grace for me. Teach me through Your Word how to live. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 5: Just Wait**

**Engage**

Read [Psalm 62:1–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps62.1-8).

**Consider**

Sometimes we just have to discipline our mind, heart, and soul to simply wait. This psalm challenges us to wait with all of our being. This means our emotions, feelings, mind, and heart must actively wait. Sometimes our heart is ready to wait, but our mind isn’t. We find ourself thinking of a million solutions or excuses. Sometimes our body tells us to wait, but our heart doesn’t as our emotions spill out. But we must wait. Just being silent before God can help our soul to remember that He is our shelter, our peace, and our answer. Waiting helps us to not get distracted when God is trying to lead us.

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| **QUESTION**  What does it look like for you to wait quietly before the Lord? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does it mean to always put your trust in God? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does waiting quietly and trusting Him have to do with seeking His will for your life? |

**Reflect**

Remember that when you wait, you are allowing God to do His work in and through your life. Waiting patiently will have more benefits in your life than choosing to follow your emotions or independent plan. God created you to have the ability to wait, so don’t let distractions or quick fixes get in the way of what God already has for you. When we trust in God and wait patiently, we position ourself to hear Him speak to us. In these moments, we can better understand why He doesn’t answer our prayers immediately.

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| **QUESTION**  What has God said to you about waiting on His timing when you are faced with a problem? |

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| **QUESTION**  What are some areas in your life where God is telling you to be patient? |

**Activate**

Talk to a friend this week and share with them what God has shown you about waiting patiently.

**Pray**

God, thank You for Your Word. Thank You that You have created me to wait. Help me to hear Your voice as I wait. Let the times of waiting grow my ability to hear from You. Show me how to live in such a way that I trust Your timing in all situations in my life. I love You. Amen.