

Week 6  
Day 1  
Numbers 14:34

So this summer we have been talking about what it means for us to be the salt and light of the world, our hope that it has been encouraging so far. Let's get real for a minute though, being different isn't without its own challenges though. Don't get me wrong, following Jesus and walking in our call to be the light can be very fulfilling but I would be lying to you if I told you it didn't come with its own challenges. These next few weeks we are going to be looking at some of the challenges we face. This week we are going to focus on the challenge of waiting.

Waiting can be so hard right? Whether it's waiting to open presents on Christmas morning, or that sick feeling of knowing you did something wrong and just waiting to have that dreadful conversation with your parents about it. There is just something about knowing what is coming good or bad and having to wait it out.

Luckily for us we aren't alone in this, that's the great thing about the Bible in general. There is pretty much an example or story about everything we go through. In our scripture today we jump into the Israelites waiting in the wilderness to get to the land God promised them. For context this is after God used Moses to split the Red Sea and free them from Egypt. They were supposed to leave Egypt and then head to this amazing land where they would thrive and have an easy life. But, people did people things and they had their doubts and were disobedient, in response they then had to wander around in the desert for 40 years after being free to reach the land God told them would be theirs. This is where our lesson gets hard, because if we are being honest sometimes we have to wait and do things the hard way because of our own actions. But I chose this scripture to encourage you, I don't want you to use this to excuse your acts of disobedience but to let you know that if you feel like you are in a season of waiting and it is in response to something you've done; you are not alone. We are all God's knuckleheads and if God has something for you just because it didn't happen when you felt like it should doesn't mean it's not coming, it may just be later than we expected and that's ok.

Day 2  
Scripture 1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Samuel 5:3&4

I really wish I could tell you these next two days would be easier but they aren't. Yesterday we talked about how our own actions can sometimes be what keeps us in a season of waiting. While that is a tough topic these next two days may be even harder. It's one thing to feel like we did something wrong and have to wait, but what about when it feels like we didn't do anything wrong?

Again, we can use the Bible as our guide for this. In our scriptures today we see David be anointed by Samuel, a servant of God to be the King. Our second scripture is when he actually takes the throne. There are 19 chapters between when he's anointed and he takes the throne,

and most people believe it was about 15 years from when he was chosen before he took the throne. Wanna know the crazy part? In David's time of waiting he worked for the current king Saul, befriended Saul's son who would usually be next in line for the throne, oh and he killed a giant in one of the most famous battles of all time.

So why did David have to wait? When we meet David he's clearly a rockstar and honestly most of the shortcomings we read about David happen after he's king. Why did God make him wait 15 years then? I imagine David had room to grow and mature, can you imagine being the governor at 15? Most people are almost unrecognizable at 30 to who they were at 15. While we know waiting sucks, maybe sometimes God lets us in on his plan early so we know we are destined for an important task and that may affect some of the decisions we make and how we grow so we can best fill the role God has called us to. Think about it this way, David is anointed to be the next King of Israel before Goliath challenges them and everyone is terrified. Is it a coincidence that the one person brave enough to face him is the same kid who was told that God chose him to be king?

Day

Scripture: Genesis 37:2, Genesis 41:46

So this week we have looked at waiting because of our own actions, a need to grow, and today's devotion is about waiting when it has nothing to do with you. Sometimes we may be put in a situation where we have to wait for what looks like no reason until we are through waiting. Trust me it's so much easier to write about than to live. Our scriptures today about Joseph makes me feel that he would say the same thing.

In our first verse we meet Joseph at 17, he's living a great life. He is not only the favorite child but God gives him visions. Again we fast forward and Joseph is now 30, second in command in all of Egypt which again is a pretty good life but how and why he gets there is anything but easy. For those who may not be familiar with the story of Joseph here's the cliff notes version. His brothers get sick of him being the favorite and him maybe being a little bit of a brat and decide to sell him into slavery. Once enslaved he works his way up in an important house but his master's wife tries to make a move on him, he says no, she lies about it and he is thrown in jail. We don't know exactly how long he is in jail for but based on the years we are given I would think he was in jail around 10 years for something he didn't do. He interprets some dreams while in jail and when Pharaoh has dreams he needs interpreted that is his ticket out and leads to him getting that position we mentioned earlier.

So that explains how he ended up having to wait in jail, but what about the why. This is where it can be a tough lesson. Joseph comes into a position of power just in time for an awful famine to hit the land, remember those dreams he interpreted, that's how he got powered he knew it was coming and he planned accordingly. So while others were struggling Egypt was doing ok in this bad famine. Well one of the people not doing well was Joseph's entire family, and they have to come to him to get food so they don't starve to death. There's a moment where they recognize

Joseph and fall to their knees apologizing for, you know, selling him into slavery. Joseph tells them what you meant for evil God used for good. Fun fact: Jesus' genealogy doesn't come from Joseph but one of his brothers. So in the craziest turn of events, them selling Joseph into slavery not only saved their lives but continued the bloodline so it could reach Jesus. Joseph was able to zoom out and see outside of his perspective that while it was an awful thing his brothers did and how hard that made his life, it wasn't about him. God can use anything and what we may see as an awful situation we don't deserve. It may be him positioning us for the moment we have the opportunity to make the biggest impact.

#### Day 4 Prayer

Waiting is HARD and so today I want you to spend time praying about it. Pray to have a heart that can wait, a heart that trusts God while you wait. And pray for encouragement and resilience while you wait

#### Day 5 Catch up

We know life gets crazy so take today to catch up on what you may have missed so far this week.

#### Day 6 Questions

1. What's the longest you had to wait for something, was it worth it?
2. What is the hardest part for you about waiting?
3. How can you keep your faith while you are in a season of waiting?

#### Day 7 Journaling

Today write about what waiting looks like verses how you want it to look