

DEVOTED

Study Week Two

Waiting

Leaders guide for "Devoted" group facilitators.

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The overall theme for this series is leading groups and individuals to experience more deeply Jesus' love and to fall more deeply in love with Him. It is not about DOING, it is about BEING. Please encourage each group member to faithfully follow the 40 day devoted journey in addition to meeting each week to share and discuss the previous week's learning and message. A must do for this session is to allow time for each person to share her/his story, often referred to as their TESTIMONY. If possible try and keep each person to 3 or 4 minutes, but do not squelch the Spirit. An effective testimony should encompass what a person's life was BEFORE coming into a personal relationship with Jesus, the CIRCUMSTANCES or EVENTS surrounding the decision, and what her/his life has been like SINCE.

Breaking the Ice:

Play this week's primer video. The focus this session is on WAITING. Waiting can be understood two ways. The KJV of Isaiah 40:31 is "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Discuss what two ways "wait upon the Lord" can be taken. Now read Acts 1:4. Discuss what Jesus had in mind when He said to wait. This is the "wait" that is the focus of this series, BEING. Doing, or waiting (serving) upon the Lord, is an important aspect of our walk with Him, but it must come as He calls and directs. Stress that we do not want to get ahead of Him nor fall behind Him, rather it is He who is in control and directing us. Therefore we must wait for Him before we wait upon Him.

Unpacking this week's message.

Discuss the following questions:

When is it most difficult to wait or show patience? What might that indicate about you and your relationship with Jesus?

Can you think of a time that your impulse was to act, but you held off and waited? Was the outcome positive or negative... in other words were you glad you waited or not?

Relate a time that it was beyond your control and you had to wait for something desired. Was it worth the wait?

Share a time when you had to wait and in retrospect it was clearly a good thing.

Generally we are a part of the "NOW, IMMEDIATE" generation and find it difficult to be patient. How can we encourage one another to step back, cool our jets, and wait for the Lord in our lives?

Bringing the session to a close:

Go around the room allowing each person to share her/his story* (testimony). Again, what life was like before, how they entered into a personal relationship with Jesus, and how life is different since becoming a Christ follower. Encourage each member to follow the 40 day experience outlined in Arron's Devoted book. Encourage each member to go through it with a buddy. If anyone needs a book call the church office. *Be sensitive to the Spirit and recognize there is no 'cookie cutter' testimony. If you, as facilitator, sense that anyone is not certain of their relationship with Jesus, pray for them privately; after the session, if you feel comfortable doing so, share the gospel with them for assurance.

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OF YOUR LIFE.*