

# In the Waiting Gratitude

**How we wait in the seasons of “not yet” has a profound effect on our lives.** We are all waiting. Whether we’re waiting on a spouse, a new job, the fulfillment of a dream, etc. Waiting can be one of the most difficult things we do, and waiting *well* is even harder. But what if God has a purpose in the waiting? What if waiting well brings about blessing? One of the key ways we wait well is by being grateful. It is a powerful weapon of warfare and an act of worship. Gratitude strengthens our faith and gives us hope in the waiting.

## GETTING STARTED

Share about a bad *waiting in line* experience you might have had. How did that experience end? What good experience, if any, have you had waiting? What did both experiences teach you about the process of waiting and how we should position our hearts as we wait?

## GO DEEPER

1. In Acts 1:6-11, Jesus said that it was not for the disciples to know the times or seasons of when the Kingdom of God would be fully established. What did Jesus promise them instead? Why is it significant that Jesus sent two men to ask them, “Why do you stand here looking into heaven?”
2. In 1 Thessalonians 5, we read that we should give thanks in all circumstances. What does it realistically look like to do this? How do we rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances? How can a lack of giving thanks in all circumstances possibly inhibit our breakthrough?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What are you waiting for right now, or what are you desiring breakthrough in?
2. How well are you expressing gratitude in this season of waiting? In what ways are you expressing gratitude? How has gratitude changed your perspective?
3. If you have seen the fulfillment of a season of waiting, in what ways did God show Himself faithful?

## PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to express gratitude for what you have seen God do in your life. Ask God to stir in your heart a deeper faith to wait on Him and His timing as you hear stories of how He’s been repeatedly faithful. Encourage one another in your group by sharing how you have seen God move in each other’s lives, and call out the good things you have seen in each other as you have walked through seasons of waiting.

## BLESS

Sharing your faith story or journey is a sure way to bring forth gratitude in your own heart. This week, who is one person you can bless by sharing your story?