

Harvest

Power for the Harvest

Prayer alone empowers our harvest (Acts 1:3-5). Like the early followers of Jesus who waited to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, *waiting* is a key part of Christian faith. But waiting is not meant to be idle time when nothing is accomplished. Rather, waiting is synonymous with prayer, and the essence of prayer is giving up control and submitting to God. When we surrender control to Him in prayer, we are empowered to see what God sees and to understand where He is leading us. In prayer, we are empowered to feel what He feels and to hear what He wants us to do.

GETTING STARTED

What things or areas in your life do you want to control the most? What affects you the most, and how does it affect you, when you are not in control?

GO DEEPER

1. In Acts 1:3-5, Jesus instructs His disciples and followers to stay in Jerusalem and **wait** for the promise of the Father, their baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why does the concept of waiting seem so counter to productivity and efficiency for many of us?
2. According to Acts 1:13-14, the apostles joined together constantly in prayer as they waited for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Why is prayer – especially as we wait – so challenging for most followers of Jesus?
3. From Psalm 23:1, how do we experience quiet waters, have our souls restored, and find paths of righteousness? What does it really look like to *not be in want*?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What are you waiting on God for right now, and what are you doing spiritually while you wait?
2. How easy or difficult is it for you to pray while you are waiting, to give up control and to fully submit to God? What is one step you can take to embrace and step into prayer in this season?
3. How fearful are you of where God might lead you, or what He might show you, if you pray? How has He possibly spoken to you already in your waiting that you did not like or agree with? To what level do you trust His heart and goodness, that His will for you is pleasing and perfect?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take time to pray, asking God to give you a greater heart and willingness to engage Him in prayer. Ask Him to help you surrender control and to fully submit to Him. Confess to God your desire to see what He sees, to feel what He feels, to follow His leading, and to do what He wants you to do.

BLESS

Serving is a powerful way to bless someone you know, especially if they do not know or follow Jesus. Ask God to show you who to serve (and how) in the next 2-3 weeks, and then make a concrete plan to act on what God shows you.