

## Bible Study Notes for Small Groups WB 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### **Worth the Wait**

- What was the best thing you ever had to wait for?

For the disciples, life must have been like a roller coaster ride.

They were born into a culture that was waiting for the Messiah. They were called by Him and spent 3 years in His presence hearing and seeing things that must have blown their minds. Just as they were becoming used to His ways He was executed and buried. While they cowered in fear and confusion He was back again talking to people and appearing to them several times. He appeared to nearly 500 people and the disciples must have thought everything was back as it was and then they were told He was going away again but this time for good. Someone would be sent to them in His place but they must wait until He comes.

Jesus' words were very specific. **'Wait for the Holy Spirit I will give you'** How bewildering it must have all been for them. It's OK for us with hindsight. We know everything would happen as Jesus said. But for them..... they must now carry on the ministry alone, without Jesus.

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 2:1-4

- How patient are you when you are told to wait?

There are three things to consider about this scripture.

#### **1 They were told to wait**

In Acts 1:4 we read that **they were told not to leave Jerusalem**. They had to wait there and not move away. Was there confusion we wonder? Did they wonder what on earth was going on?

There are 116 mentions in scripture about waiting.

#### **Read Isaiah 14:31**

- Does this scripture comfort you, encourage you or confuse you? How or why?

We live in an instant society. We want everything NOW. Instagram, instant cash from the hole in the wall, instant coffee, instant information from google. The Bible is completely counter cultural to our present-day experience.

**There is a positive side to the waiting.** By waiting the disciples are called. In spite of their grief, tiredness, confusion, they do as they are asked. They are faithful and patient.

When we come to know how good loving and faithful our God is we find ourselves called to wait.

- Has God ever told you to wait for something? Has there been an outcome yet?

#### **2 They were faithful in waiting**

In Acts 1: they received the message **'You WILL receive power and be my witnesses.'** So, the promise was if you WAIT you WILL. We are not told how long they had to wait. Only

that they did wait. It could have been days, weeks or even months. We are often only prepared to wait for a short time then we start complaining or even giving up. But they were told they would be witnesses in Jerusalem..... where Jesus was crucified and rose again in Samaria... [we now call it the West Bank] where their immediate enemies lived to the ends of the earth..... where the gentiles lived. They would reconcile all kinds of people to God with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- When you are told to wait for something what do you do while you are waiting?

When God tells us to wait it is not for us to know dates and times. Jesus told them to wait for the helper and as they waited God was at work in them. We read that they pray, fast and share together. They were brought to unity as they waited. **As they prayerfully waited, they were made ready for the Holy Spirit.**

We often tell God we want Him to move; to do something. We tell Him we are ready but He knows that we are not. He moves at the right time. A butterfly has to wait for the transformation from a caterpillar before it can emerge. Bread has to be set aside to wait for the yeast to prove before it can be completed as a loaf ready for eating. We cannot rush God. **We can wait and it WILL be worth it.**

- When you have been waiting for something have you noticed any changes in yourself?

We learn who we are while we wait. The waiting is as important as the outcome.

**Read Psalm 27:14**

We need to be patient because God is patient with us.

### **3 They received what was promised.**

We don't have a true date for the first Pentecost but we know they were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit. He came carrying the power of the Gospel. Jesus was only absent physically. He was and is present in the Holy Spirit; sometimes coming in fire but often gently.

**When we wait, we will receive.**

- What is the personal message for you

As a church we need to be faithful in our waiting as we make ready for what He sends. We must be praying, worshipping and working together, We will not be doing it alone.

**Read Isaiah 40:28-31**