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## Access: Waiting

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Week of March 21, 2010

- In your opinion, why do you think waiting for God to answer prayer is so difficult in our American Christian culture?

*“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16*

As we pursue communication with God, answers to prayer bring joy and celebration in addition to increased trust in Him.

- At this point in your life, have you ever come alongside someone facing a serious situation where you prayed for them over an extended period of time?
- How was that prayer answered and how did it affect you?

Sometimes we have a significant need and long for God to answer, but we continue to bring it before Him for months or even years. Waiting is a challenge, temptation comes, and you feel like giving up and asking, “God, where are You?”

- Is there some need you have prayed for over a long period of time but it just hasn’t been answered yet?
- How has your prayer life been affected by the seemingly unanswered prayer?

**Have someone in the group read 1 Samuel 1:1-20.**

We face obstacles or hindrances as we seek to approach God and talk with Him about the longing in our hearts. Sometimes they come from without, and other times from within.

- What obstacles do you see Hannah overcoming in her situation?
- How would you describe Hannah’s prayer life?

**Have someone in the group read Hannah’s Celebration Prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.**

- What is Hannah’s view of God in her celebration prayer?
- What can we learn from her that can be applied in our own prayer life?

*“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14*

**Have someone in the group read Romans 19-27.**

- Paul says waiting enlarges us like a pregnant woman. What do you think it is about us that is enlarged during times of waiting? Have you experienced this?
- Why is hope so difficult? When do you struggle most to hang on to hope?
- What difference does it make to you, knowing that the Spirit of God intercedes for you when you have nothing left to say?

Shane’s take away for us in his message, his Big Idea, was: **wait gives weight (glory) to celebrate.**

Close your time waiting upon the Lord in worshipful prayer, seeking wisdom for our pastors, in praying for the Lord to meet the financial needs of Westport, and for one another.

## **Resource for Meeting with God this week:**

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### **Powerful prayers in Scripture:**

Day 1	David’s Prayer	1 Chronicles 17:16-27
Day 2	Solomon’s Dedication Prayer	2 Chronicles 6:14-42
Day 3	Daniel’s Prayer	Daniel 2:19-23
Day 4	Nebuchadnezzar’s Prayer	Daniel 4:34-37
Day 5	Paul to Colossians	Colossians 1:9-12