**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Series: Lord, Teach Us to Pray*

*Sermon: “Patient Prayer” (10-14-18)*

**Group Announcements (Leaders: Please review prior to start)**

**1)** Welcome everyone to your group.

**2) Leaders: Please note special instructions for prayer time.**

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** *Please use these questions as a time for people to informally talk and get to know each other.*

Go around the room and have everyone answer this question: **What kinds of daily life situations make you impatient?** (Be as specific as you can)

* **Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

* **Our Part > We must wait patiently for the Lord**.
* **Two necessary requirements for patient waiting**: **1) Humility 2) Hope**.
* **Patient Waiting**: Resting in God to accomplish his purpose and his will in his perfect timing.
* **(God’s Part) What God promises to do as we wait patiently for him**. 1) God turns toward us.
* 2) God hears our desperate prayer. 3) God rescues us from the slimy pit of destruction. 4) God sets our feet on a sure and certain foundation. 5) God makes our steps secure so we can continue moving forward. 6) God puts joy into our hearts and he puts a new song in our mouth. 7) God allows our waiting to be a witness to others.
* **You will know you are not patiently waiting on the Lord when…..**
* 1) When the waiting causes you to doubt God’s love. 2) When the waiting causes you to resent God. 3) When the waiting causes you question God’s plan. 4) When the waiting causes you to covet and become envious of others. 5) When the waiting causes you to become passive and spiritually lazy.
* **Truths of Love and Trust** 1) Loving God means we must trust him. 2) Trusting God means we must embrace his timing.
* **Formula of love, trust and patience** = **To love God, you must trust him and to trust him, you must embrace his timing, and to embrace his timing you must be patient in your prayer**.
* The purpose of waiting on the Lord with patient prayer is to allow God to change us as we continue to seek him and trust him during the waiting.
* **Into The Text** (15 Minutes) (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the meaning of the text. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read Psalm 40:1-5. *Ask*: *What are some events in David’s life that required patient prayer and waiting? How difficult were some of the situations David had to patiently pray through?*
2. *Ask: What does it mean that the Lord ‘inclined’ himself to David?* David’s prayer is described here as “cry”. *What kind of prayer is that? Can anyone relate to desperate prayer and crying out to God? How so? What does it say about God that he hears our cry?*
3. *Ask: Why does David describe the place he was in as a pit of destruction and a miry bog? Is this literal or figurative? What does “set my feet upon a rock” symbolize? Why does David tell us that the Lord put a new song in his mouth? Is it surprising to you to see that patiently waiting on God leads to witness to others?*

**Application & Discussion** (15-20 Minutes)

1. Say: Let’s move to application. *Ask: When you pray for specific things from God, how long do you typically expect to wait for God to answer? What time period constitutes “a long time” to wait on God? Is it possible to trust God and not trust his timing? Why not?*
2. *Ask: What does it look like to wait on God with patient prayer? What would it look like to wait impatiently? How do you know when you are being impatient with God?*
3. *Ask: How has God shown patience toward you? Do you have an example of something you have patiently prayed for over several or more years?*
4. *Ask:* *Has your impatient prayer ever led to any of the following in your life: doubting Gods love, questioning God’s plan, becoming covetous and envious, becoming passive and spiritually lazy.*
5. *Ask: Is there something you are currently waiting on God to answer through patient prayer?*

**\*\*Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**)

* We will now close with a time of prayer.
* As we have done before, ask someone to start and then have each person go around the room and pray a one sentence prayer out loud to the Lord, with all of your heart: This sentence can either be prayed as is or in your own words.
* Make sure everyone knows who is starting the prayer and the direction you are going.
* The sentence is…. *“Lord, help me to trust you and teach me to wait on you through patient prayer.”* (encourage those uncomfortable with praying out loud to pray that simple sentence)
* *(****Leader****: Encourage those uncomfortable with praying out loud to try this, even if it is just a short sentence, they can still pass if they choose but do ask for this prayer to go around the room in a certain order so everyone knows – give room for learning to pray)*
* Once everyone has prayed this prayer in their own words, you can either open it up for prayer or just close. Lord, teach us to pray.