

Discussion Guide

When expectations collide with God's timing

October 6th, 2024

Summary

The sermon focused on the story of Lazarus from John 11, highlighting the tension between human expectations and God's divine timing. It emphasized that while we often expect immediate answers to our prayers, God's timing is perfect and serves a greater purpose. The sermon encouraged believers to trust in God's plan, even when it doesn't align with their expectations, and to hold on to their faith, knowing that God's delay is not a denial but a setup for a greater revelation of His glory.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts, ready to receive Your word. Help us to understand Your divine timing and trust in Your plans for our lives. May we be receptive to the lessons You want to teach us today. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you are currently waiting for in your life?

Key Verses

1. John 11:1-16
2. Isaiah 40:29-31
3. Ephesians 3:20

Questions

1. Have you ever experienced a time when God's timing didn't match your expectations? How did you handle it?
2. What does it mean to you to trust in God's timing?
3. How can we develop patience while waiting for God's timing?
4. What role does faith play when our expectations are not met immediately?
5. How can we support each other in times of waiting and uncertainty?
6. What are some ways we can remind ourselves of God's past faithfulness during times of waiting?
7. How does understanding God's greater purpose help us cope with unmet expectations?
8. What can we learn from the story of Lazarus about God's power and timing?

Discussion Guide

When expectations collide with God's timing

October 6th, 2024

Life Application

This week, identify an area in your life where you are waiting for God to move. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you trust His timing and purpose. Share your experience with a friend or group member for support.

Key Takeaways

1. God's timing often differs from our expectations.
2. Delays in God's response are not denials but opportunities for greater revelations.
3. Trusting in God's plan requires faith and patience.
4. God's love and purpose transcend our immediate needs.
5. Waiting on God can lead to a deeper relationship with Him.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for reminding us that Your timing is perfect. Help us to trust in Your plans and to remain faithful even when our expectations are unmet. May we find peace in knowing that You are working all things for our good and Your glory. Amen.