

Learning to Wait With Zechariah – December 7 & 8, 2019
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Job 38

- From where does God speak to Job (1)? How does he begin to silence Job's "words without knowledge" (2-3)? God confronts a man in the throes of suffering. Why do you think he did this? How and when does God typically confront lies you believe – that he's not doing anything, that he's forgotten you, etc.?
- Summarize the Lord's role as omniscient creator (4-41). How do you think Job felt to hear all this? Which section do you find most provocative? Why? Which parts bring peace or sober-minded thinking? If you could sum up all of these pronouncements in one word or phrase, what would it be?
- In seasons of waiting, the Lord wants us to believe he will remember us, and that he's always on the move. Is this ever a struggle for you? Explain. Ask the Holy Spirit to reorient your heart toward hopeful truth. How do you think he will accomplish this?

Day Two: Psalm 115

- According to the psalmist, who should get all the glory (1)? Why (1)? This hymn was likely written during a high point in Israel's history. During the good times, what credit do you give to God? What about during the bad times?
- What rhetorical question is found in verse 2? Summarize the psalmist's criticism of idols (3-7). What awaits idolaters (8)? In what ways might believing certain lies about God – that he's not doing anything and that he's forgotten you – do the same damage idol-worship does? Respond to the Lord.
- Describe the psalmist's repeated command to trust in the Lord (9-11). What does he write about God's remembrance and blessing (12-15)? What has God given to us (16)? Who praises the Lord (17-18)? For everyone who is waiting, pray God would remember and bless them and be "their help and shield." What do you think it would look like for this prayer to be answered?

Day Three: Psalm 126

- What was it like for God's people when he "restored the fortunes of Zion" (1)? Spend a few minutes meditating on this verse; what does it mean to be "like those who dreamed"? What dreams of your own have you long ago let go of? Perhaps the Lord wants to reawaken them in you. What do you sense him speaking?
- How did the people express their feelings during this time (2-3)? How did others respond to what they saw the Lord doing (2)? How do you usually respond when God pours goodness out on you? How do you think this makes the Lord feel? Pray for an ability to express your full range and depth of emotions to the Lord, both in times of plenty and in times of pain.
- What does the psalmist tell God to do (4)? What does he claim will happen for the sorrowful (5-6)? What is the source of any current sorrow in *your* life? Do you believe a song of joy will one day be yours to sing? Speak to the Lord about your hopes and fears.

Day Four: Psalm 130

- Describe the psalmist's emotional state (1). What does he want from the Lord (2)? Because God forgives, what is possible (3-4)? What do these first four verses reveal about who the Lord is, and how we should approach him in times of distress or failure? What does this mean for you? In what new way will you approach God?

- What is the psalmist's experience of waiting for the Lord like (5-6)? What does he hope in (5)? Imagine being awake all night standing guard, in hopeful expectation, waiting for the sun to rise. How is your "whole being" involved? Paint a picture in your mind of what it looks like to wait on the Lord in this way. What grace do you need from God in order to walk this out? Pray for it now.
- How does the psalmist transition from a personal reflection to a corporate call (7-8)? Why is it worthwhile for God's people to put their hope in him (7-8)? This Advent, pray the words of verses 7-8 over your own spiritual community, and hope for a fruitful impact.

Day Five: Hebrews 8

- What is the author's "main point" (1-2)? Envision this scene; any way we try to recreate it or substitute it pales in comparison. Jesus is the real thing, and as our high priest in heaven, he is worth the wait. Today, how does this make you feel? Respond to the Lord.
- What does Jesus have in common with other high priests (3)? What sets him apart (4-6)? Re-read verse six. Ask the Holy Spirit to testify to your heart about Jesus' promises and worthiness. May his testimony bolster your resilience during seasons of waiting.
- Why did God make a New Covenant with his people (7-8)? Summarize Jeremiah's Old Testament prophecy about it (8-12). Pray this prophecy would give you a better understanding of our savior and help you eagerly anticipate him during Advent.
- What's the Old Covenant's current status (13)? Obsolete or false beliefs about God muddy our connection to Jesus, especially in times of waiting. Let go of lies; receive Jesus and his loving truth!