



Sunday School Study Plan
April 2025 with Dr. Dewayne Dickens and Mrs. Hazel Reed
Topic for April 6, 13, 20 (Easter), 27
"Waiting and Faithing: Can't Uncouple the Formula"

(If we do not meet on a Sunday, please use that week for reflective questioning on the provided topic and scriptures.)

Week 1 (April 6): The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

****Scripture References:****

- Mark 1:9-13
- Matthew 3:13-17 (Baptism)
- Luke 4:1-13 (Temptation)

Guiding Questions:

1. What is the significance of Jesus being baptized by John, and how does this relate to the theme of waiting?
2. How does the Spirit's descent and the subsequent temptation illustrate Jesus' preparation for His ministry?
3. What does this passage teach us about the importance of waiting in times of preparation and trial?
4. How can we apply the lessons of waiting and reliance on God during our own periods of testing?
5. How did Jesus' experience in the wilderness shape His understanding of His mission and identity?

Week 2 (April 13): The Calling of the First Disciples

****Scripture References:****

- Mark 1:16-20
- Matthew 4:18-22 (Similar account)
- Luke 5:1-11 (Call of Peter)

Guiding Questions:

1. What do you notice about the immediacy of the disciples' response to Jesus' call?
2. How does leaving their livelihoods behind illustrate a form of waiting for something greater?
3. In what ways can this story challenge us to consider our own responses to God's call?
4. How can we be patient and trusting while waiting for clarity in our own lives?
5. What do you think motivated the disciples to leave everything and follow Jesus?

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WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
 - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
 - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
 - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."



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Week 3 (April 20 – self-study): The Healing of the Paralytic Guiding Questions:

Scripture References:

- Mark 2:1-12
- Matthew 9:1-8 (Similar account)
- Luke 5:17-26 (Similar account)

Guiding Questions:

1. What obstacles did the friends of the paralytic face in getting him to Jesus?
2. How does the story illustrate the theme of waiting, both for the paralytic and for those who brought him?
3. What does Jesus' response to the paralytic reveal about His authority and compassion?
4. How can we cultivate a community that supports one another while waiting for healing or answers to prayer?
5. How might the paralytic's faith and the faith of his friends have contributed to his healing?

Week 4 (April 27): Jesus Teaches about the Kingdom

Scripture References:

- Mark 4:26-29
- Matthew 13:31-32 (Parable of the mustard seed)
- Luke 13:18-19 (Similar parable)

Guiding Questions:

1. What does the parable of the growing seed teach us about the nature of the Kingdom of God?
2. How does this parable reflect the theme of waiting for growth and transformation?
3. In what ways can we apply the principle of patience in our spiritual lives as we wait for God's work to unfold?
4. How can we remain hopeful and faithful while waiting for the fruits of our labor in God's Kingdom?
5. What does this parable reveal about the seemingly small beginnings of God's work in our lives?

The Gospel of Mark emphasizes:

1. **Jesus as the Suffering Servant** – Mark presents Jesus as the Messiah who came to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).
2. **Action-Oriented Narrative** – The shortest Gospel, Mark uses the word "immediately" frequently, portraying Jesus as constantly active in His ministry.
3. **Authority of Jesus** – Highlights Jesus' power over sickness, demons, nature, and even death, proving His divine authority.
4. **Call to Discipleship** – Stresses the cost of following Jesus, requiring faith, sacrifice, and servanthood.
5. **Focus on the Passion** – Devotes a large portion (about a third) to Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection, showing His role as the suffering Son of God.

Mark presents Jesus as a powerful yet suffering servant, urging believers to follow Him in faith and action.

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