

REFUEL: Where is God in my waiting? Handout (1 HR)

Saturday 8th October 2022 (with Steve McClure)

AIMS OF THIS SESSION:

- Wrestle with the theme of hope amidst our waiting.
- Reflect on how we can transform a cycle of disappointment into a cycle of faith.

INTRODUCTION: Everybody's waiting for something

(Q) Share who we are, what we are waiting for in this season of life and what we want to get out of this seminar?

Introduce the story of Abram/Abraham and Sarai/Sarah

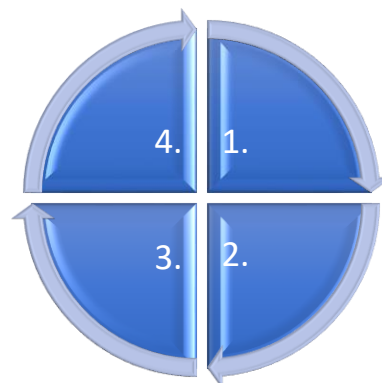
- Gen 12 – God's promises (aged 75 / 65)
- Gen 13 – God shows Abram the land
- Gen 15 – The Covenant
- Gen 16 – Ishmael born (aged 86 / 76)
- Gen 17-18 – Promise repeated (aged 99 / 89)
- Gen 21 – Isaac born (aged 100 / 90)
- Gen 22/25 – Sarah dies (aged 127) & Abram died (aged 175)



(Q) What do you think it would be like to wait such a long time for God to fulfil His promises? What do you imagine might be some of the challenges to hope they experienced in their waiting?

1. A CYCLE OF DISAPPOINTMENT (16:1-8):

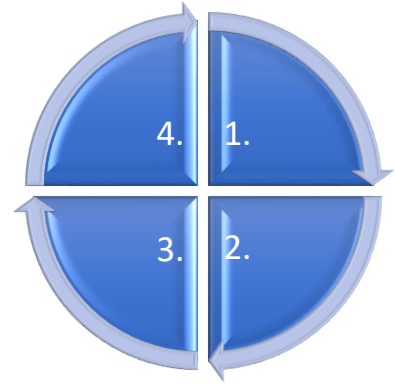
- Step 1 (16:1-2a):
- Step 2 16:2b-4:
- Step 3 (16:5):
- Step 4 (16:6):



(Q) What elements of this cycle of disappointment can you most relate to? When has your own story led you through these steps? More specifically was there a period waiting which came to define you? What methods did you use to try to fix it yourself? Who did you blame? What was the pit that you finally found yourself in?

2. A CYCLE OF FAITH (12-25):

- Step 1 (Gen 12:2-3):
- Step 2 (17:15-18, 18:9-15):
- Step 3 (15:1-6):
- Step 4 (12:1, 17:1-6):



(Q) What elements of this cycle of faith can you most relate to? How have you experienced God rewriting your story of disappointment with His bigger and better story? Specifically, how has God blessed you? What opportunities is God giving you to believe Him? When has the presence of God been a particular encouragement? How is God imparting a sense of his purpose for your lives?

STEVE'S STORY

SO WHY DOES GOD MAKE US WAIT?

- We learn more about God's character and purposes and ourselves:
- We grow in perseverance, wisdom and transformation of character (James 1:2-5):
- We learn that God is sovereign, full of mercy and compassion and fulfils His promises (James 5:10-11)
- We learn the importance of solitude and being still and silent before the Lord (Psalm 46:10; Zech 2:13)
- We learn to persevere in prayer and put our hope in God's promises (Luke 18:1-8):

CONCLUSION:

In our waiting will we follow the cycle of disappointment or the cycle of faith?

What are we waiting for? In what ways is God at work in our waiting?

Romans 4:18-22