

Refuel II Day Conference:

A2: Where is God in my waiting?

Setting our Hope on God's Promises

Steve McClure

ALWAYS WAITING



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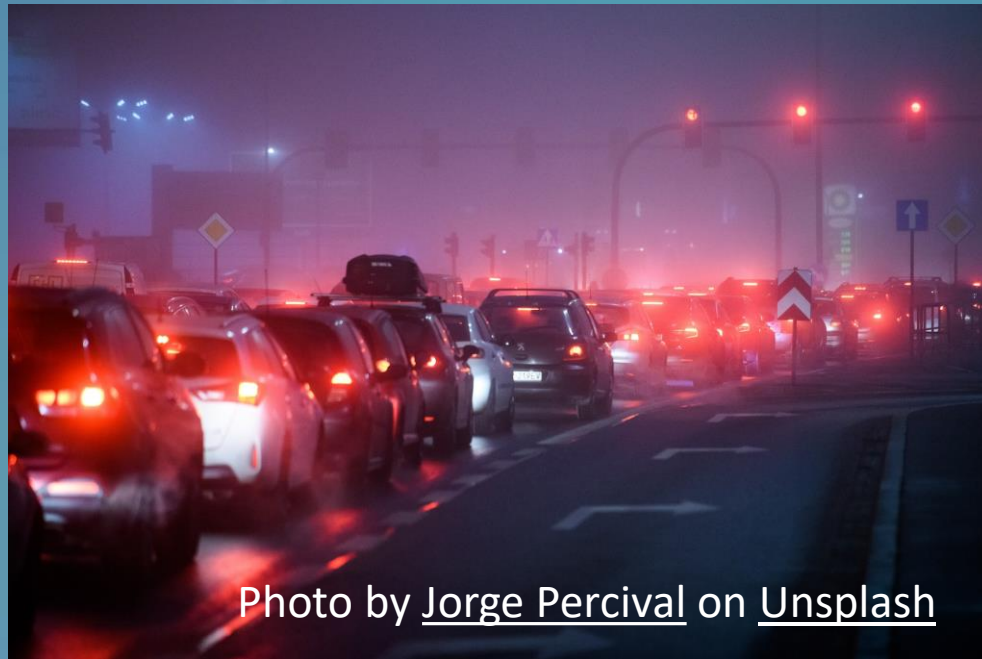


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Get to know one another

- 1 Who are you?
- 2 What kinds of things are you waiting for in this season of life?
- 3 What do you hope to get out of this seminar?



Aims of this session

- 1** Wrestle with the theme of hope amidst our waiting.
- 2** Reflect on how we can transform a cycle of disappointment into a cycle of faith.
- 3** Consider how we might set our hope on the promises of God



**“Our lives are full of waiting
and what we do in our
waiting, matters to God and
it changes us.”**

Prof. Beth Peterson

Story of Abram & Sarai

- 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 – Promise repeated (aged 99 / 89)
- Gen 21 – Isaac born (aged 100 / 90)
- Gen 22 – Sarah dies (aged 127)
- Gen 25 – Abram died (aged 175)





HITTITES

URARTU

Haran

Aleppo

Nineveh

Assur

ASSYRIA

MEDIA

Mari

ARAM

Damascus

Shechem

Hebron

CANAAN

BABYLONIA

ELAM

Babylon

Arabian
Desert

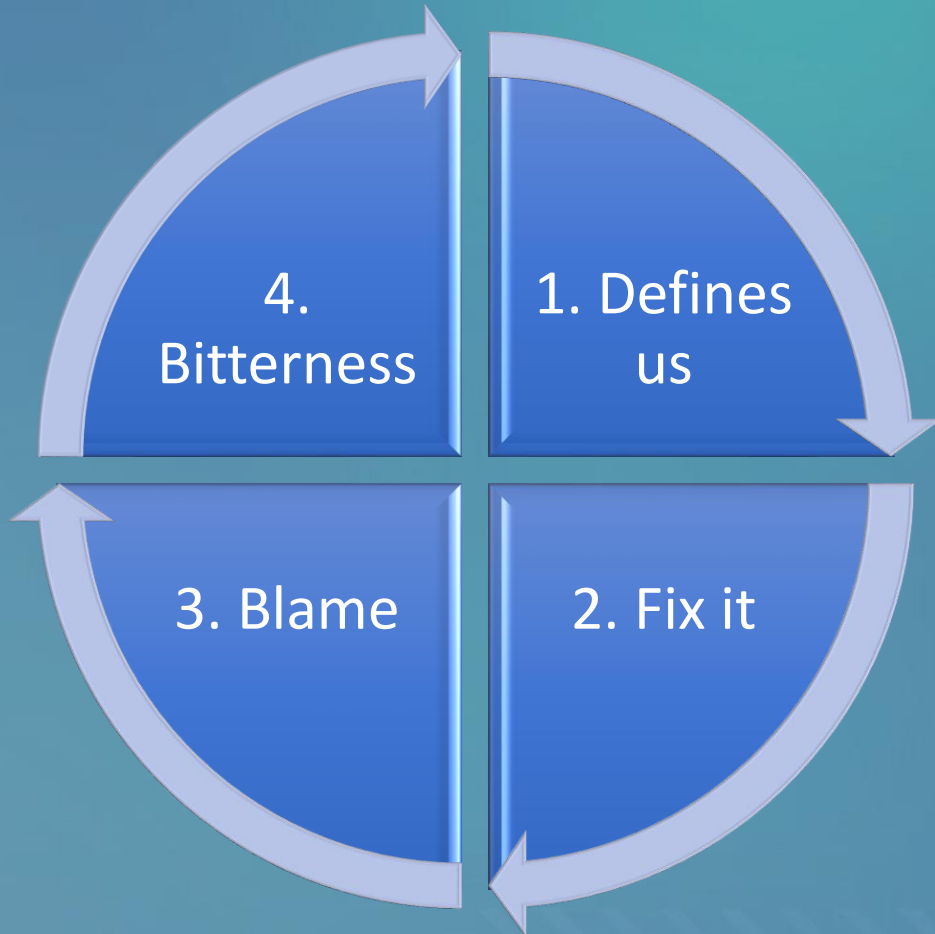
Ur

EGYPT

Discussion

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

The Cycle of Disappointment



Example of Abram & Sarai

Defines us: 11:30, 16:1-2a

Fix it: 16:2b-4

Blame: 16:5

Bitterness: 16:6



Discussion

1. What elements of this cycle of disappointment can you most relate to?
2. When has your own story led you through these steps?

The Cycle of Faith & Hope



Example of Abram & Sarai

Step 1: 12:2-3

Step 2: 17:15-18, 18:9-15

Step 3: 15:1-6

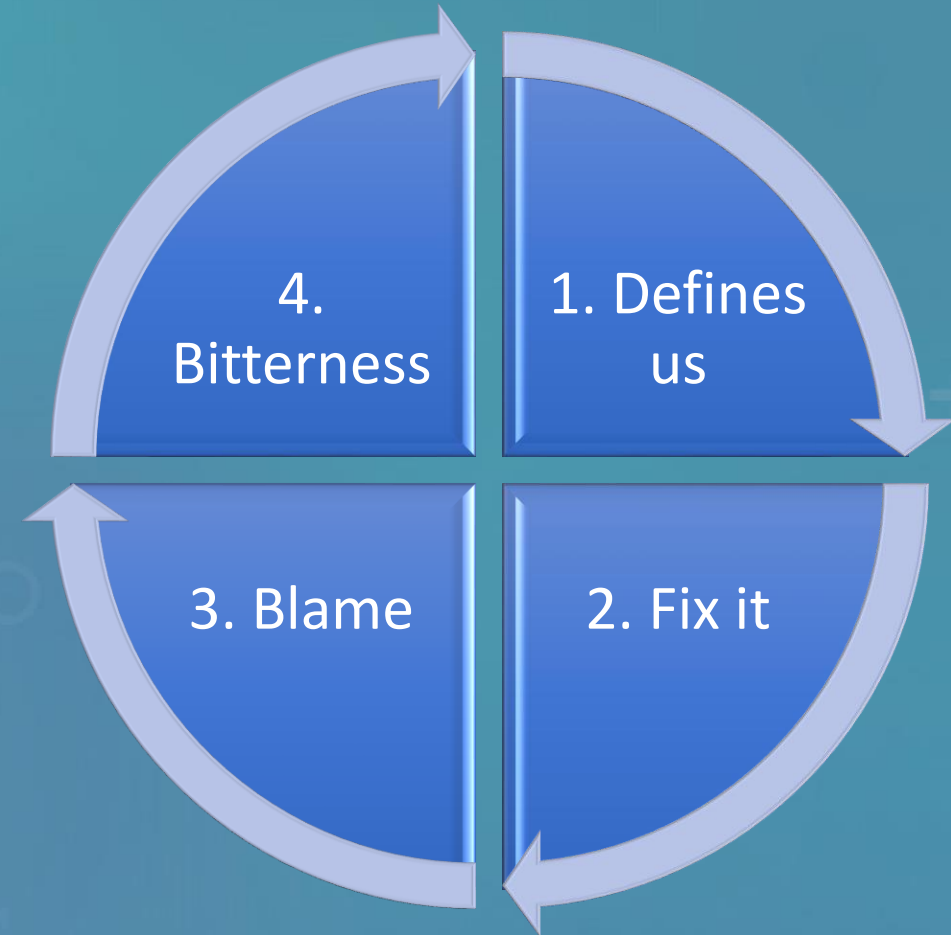
Step 4: 12:1, 17:1-6



The Cycle of Faith & Hope



The Cycle of Disappointment



Discussion

1. What elements of this cycle of faith can you most relate to?
2. How have you experienced God rewriting your story of disappointment with His bigger and better story?

So why does God make us wait?

1. We learn more about God's character and purposes and ourselves
2. We grow in perseverance, wisdom and transformation of character
3. We learn that God is sovereign, full of mercy and compassion and fulfils His promises
4. We learn the importance of solitude and being still and silent before the Lord
5. We learn to persevere in prayer and put our hope in God's promises

“Waiting is not just about what I get at the end of the wait, but about who I become as I wait..”

Paul Tripp

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **19** Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. **20** Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, **21** being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. **22** This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:18-22

“The opposite of impatience is not a glib denial of loss. It’s a deepening, ripening, peaceful, willingness to wait for God in the unplanned place of obedience, and to walk with God at the unplanned pace of obedience – to wait in his place, and go at his pace.”

John Piper

He Strengthens you with Power
Ephesians 3:16

He will meet all your needs
Philippians 4:19

He will never leave you nor forsake you
Joshua 1:5, 9

He will keep us in
Perfect Peace
Isaiah 26:3

He will give you Rest
Matthew 11:28

He is our Refuge
Pslam 91:2

He works all things for Good
Romans 8:28

For no matter how many promises God has made,
they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the
"Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

He is Faithful and Just
1 John 1:9

Nothing can separate us
from the love of God
Romans 8:38-39

2 Corinthians 1:20

He will set you Free
John 8:36

He will instruct and teach you
Pslam 32:8

He makes firm your steps
Psalm 37:23

His grace is sufficient for you
2 Corinthians 12:9

He will uphold you
Isaiah 41:10

He has overcome the world
John 16:33

He will renew your strength
Isaiah 40:31

He knows the plans He
has for you
Jeremiah 29:11

The Peace of God will guard
your hearts and minds
Philippians 4:7

By His wounds you have
been Healed
1 Peter 2:24

The LORD will fight for you
Exodus 14:14

He gives strength to the weary
Isaiah 40:29

He says: "Do not fear, I will help you"
Isaiah 41:13

He will give you the
desires of your heart
Psalm 37:4

His Covenant of Peace will
not be removed
Isaiah 54:10

No weapon forged against
you will prevail
Isaiah 54:17

He gives Wisdom
generously
James 1:5

When you pass through the
waters, He will be with you
Isaiah 43:2

He delivers you from your troubles
Psalm 34:17

He will pour out His blessing
Malachi 3:10



Refuel II Day Conference: Thanks for being here today

Steve McClure