

What Are You Waiting For?

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Generally speaking, do you place a high value on being punctual? Explain.
2. What is something in your life you've been waiting for?

Read the following passage: Acts 24:22-27

Felix, the Roman governor of Judea, left Paul in prison for two years. Although it was clear that Paul had not committed any crimes, Felix refused to make a decision about Paul's case. In addition, after many conversations with Paul about "righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come," Felix also wouldn't make a decision to follow Jesus. How come? Why wouldn't Felix make a decision? The text indicates that Felix was unwilling to let go of the common idols of money, sex, and power. The same can happen in our lives. We can't cling to our idols and cling to Jesus at the same time.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Describe some of the common cultural perspectives around sex, romance, dating, and marriage.
 - In what ways do you imagine these perspectives are similar to those held in the first century and in what ways do you imagine they differ?
 - How have these perspectives influenced your own thoughts, experiences, or expectations?
 - Do you have peace and contentment in this area of your life? Explain.
 - How does this area of your life impact your relationship with God and, conversely, how does your relationship with God impact this area of your life?
2. Describe how money was thought about and managed (or mismanaged!) in the home in which you grew up.
 - Is money currently a source of stress for you? Explain.
 - How is money impacting how you live right now?
 - Do you give a fixed percentage of your income to the church every month?
3. Read Matthew 6:24 and Matthew 7:7-11. What does it look like practically to trust God as our provider? How does this connect with making a budget or having a plan?
4. For many people, being in a position of power provides a sense of importance and control.
 - What are some ways in which you find yourself trying to gain a sense of importance or control? Explain.
 - What does it look like to take those desires to God?

Pray