



TRUST ISSUES

When God Seems Late

#nptrustissues

Week 4
4 of 5

October 1, 2017

Bottom Line: If you continue to trust God through your situation/circumstance, He will eventually show you His glory.

Icebreaker: Share one of your favorite summer memories.

Key Verse: *"This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."* John 11:4

Have you ever wanted something so badly that you felt you couldn't be happy unless you got exactly that? Maybe it was a person you HAD to date or marry, a possession or position you HAD to have, a prayer that must be answered? Perhaps you discovered the truth Garth Brooks sings about. He ran into an old flame, and the encounter stirred these thoughts:

"She was the one that I'd wanted for all times, and each night I'd spend prayin' that God would make her mine. And if he'd only grant me this wish I wished back then, I'd never ask for anything again . . . We tried to talk about the old days. There wasn't much we could recall. I guess the Lord knows what he's doin' after all . . . And as she walked away and I looked at my wife right then and there I thanked the good Lord for the gifts in my life. Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers Remember when you're talkin' to the man upstairs that just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care. Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayer."

Mary and Martha discovered that. Far greater than any specific answer to prayer is the gift we receive if we will hold on and not give up, no matter what our circumstances. They hadn't even comprehended that Jesus could resurrect Lazarus. They only knew Him as healer, not as the Giver of Life. In their circumstances, even when God didn't come through in the way they asked, He DID come through. They experienced His presence and power in a new and intimate way. We will too. When God is late He doesn't love us less. He is working.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

Discuss: "One of the greatest destroyers of faith is timing that doesn't fit our preconceived notions. We live in a fast-paced world where we have come to expect instant responses to every desire and need."

God's glory means His presence and power. How have you learned to experience God's presence and power even in a period of great disappointment?

You will never experience God's presence and power when things are going right in the same intimate way as when you trust Him despite everything going wrong. Agree or disagree? Why?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

When John told the story, he was careful to point out that Jesus loved this family, because it was going to appear that He *didn't* love them as the story progressed. The deepest love seeks what is best for the one loved. The highest motivation for our love is not our feelings or affections but rather an honest, intelligent asking and answering of the question, "What is best for the one I love?"

How would you describe the benefits to Lazarus and his family from going through this experience?

What might they have felt when Jesus wept?

God can do anything we ask. But sometimes He doesn't. We must wait to see what He will do. We can trust Him in the meantime because if we continue to trust, hope, and believe, God is willing to leverage that for the glory of His Son and for your best interest. How can you encourage yourself while you wait?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Share an area where I need to keep faith going while I wait.
2. Pray together for these situations.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: If you continue to trust God through your circumstance, He will eventually show you His glory.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Psalm 18:8

Tuesday: Psalm 62:8

Wednesday: Psalm 22:4-5

Thursday: 2 Timothy 1:12

Friday: John 11:25

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)