



Sermon Discussion Guide

MARCH 31, 2019 • EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE • ETHAN LINDER
ISAIAH 34:4-8; MATTHEW 11:1-19

ACCEPT

Who are the people around us facing moments of doubt because of difficult situations or life transition? How can we be with them in ways that allows them to use our faith to strengthen theirs?

ENCOURAGE

“Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.” **Psalm 23:6**

- What were the positive, encouraging experiences people saw this week? Where might God have been in those situations?
- What were some of the difficult situations or experiences of the week? Where might God have been during those times?

Share Scriptural words of encouragement with each other based on how you have been praying for each other this week.

TEACH

Teaching Summary – (Click here for a link to the summary video)

John the Baptist’s whole life—his prophecies, his baptism, his confidence—pointed toward Jesus being the Messiah. Yet when he is in prison, he says, “Are you the one we’ve been waiting for, or should we expect someone else?” We (along with John’s disciples) are left wondering why his faith took a downward turn. What about Jesus’ actions made John question if He was the one? Probably the same ones that make us wonder whether God will come through, and leave us asking the same question: “Should we expect someone else?” This sermon will explore that tension and help us name God’s presence in our lives—even when it doesn’t seem like enough to live by.

Review Questions

1. Where has God most recently disappointed you?
2. What is God doing that you need to name as enough? What are the things that God might be doing that aren’t the answer you wanted but are the answer being given?
3. How might you walk in the way Jesus has opened right now?

Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

REFLECT AND CORRECT

- Is our group a safe place for people to doubt or ask hard questions? What would need to change to make this a reality?
- Have you hurt someone by not allowing them to talk about their doubt? If so, how might you make it right with that person?
- Has someone else hurt you by dismissing your doubts or questions? Why might they have done this, and can you begin to forgive them?
- What doubts or questions do you have that you feel comfortable sharing with the group?

SERVE

- Can you name 3 ways you might need the help or support of everyone else in your group?
- What are some tangible ways the group might meet these needs?

PRAY

Here is a guided prayer based on Psalm 22. The leader can start and people in the group can finish each sentence.

“Our (spiritual) ancestors trusted in you,
and you rescued them.

They cried out to you and were saved.

They trusted in you and were never disgraced.”

(give people a moment to be silent and listen)

- “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I ask for...”
- “Do not stay so far from me, for trouble is near, and no one else can help me when...”
- “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people because....”
- “God, you have not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. You have not turned your back on them, but you have listened to their cries for help. I remember and celebrate the way you helped...”

“Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.”

Amen.

*Share ways you can pray for each other over the coming week.
Spend time praying with each other now, listening to God for ways to pray.*