

Illustrations of not waiting in society  
Ovens - Microwave ovens - Poptart  
Home cooked dinner - Restaurant - Fast food  
Coffee Makers - Keurig coffee maker - less than 1 minute  
Letter - email - texting and Facebook  
Network television - Cable TV - Tivo & DVRs, Netflix online streaming  
Sun tanning, tanning booth, spray-on tan

We don't wait for anything if we can help it. And it's not always our fault, it's the society we live in. We've been looking at a man in the Bible recently that was asked to wait. He was asked to Wait on God.

Story of Noah summarized

The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. He decided to wipe mankind from the face of the earth.

He chose a righteous man named Noah to build an ark taking 7 pairs of every kind of clean animal and 2 pairs of every kind of unclean animal with you along with your family, 3 sons and their wives with you on the ark.

It rained on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights.  
Water covered the earth for 110 days afterward.  
Noah and family didn't leave the ark until after 1 year and 12 days!

ACTIVITY: Pass out daily calendar.

Read **Genesis 8:1-19**

Noah waited on God.  
He waited for the rain to come - Year?  
He waited for the rain to stop - 40 days  
He waited for the water to quit rising - 110 days  
He waited for the water to recede - 1 year 12 days  
He waited for the Raven  
He waited for the Dove.  
Chapter 8 is the story of Noah WAITING ON GOD

Noah wasn't the only person who waited in the Bible.

Abraham waited for a son.  
Joshua waited to enter the promised land.  
Anna and Simeon waited to see the Messiah.  
Jesus waited 40 day in a fast while being tempted by Satan.

What are you waiting for today?

Job? Job change? Health to improve? Mr. or Mrs. Right? A child?

ACTIVITY: Write down something you are waiting for right now OR Something you SHOULD be waiting for right now.

Whatever it is, you can trust God has something good in store for you if you wait on Him and not race ahead.

The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:8 "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."

ACTIVITY: WRITE "A Thousand Years" on your day

In waiting the dimension of time is removed. It's not a factor.

but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

Waiting requires the SUSPENSION OF APPETITES. The delaying of desires. Putting off what you want until later, a more appropriate time. This is what makes waiting so difficult.

You have an appetite to eat, but overeating is unhealthy.

You have an appetite to consume goods, but materialism is bad stewardship.

You have an appetite for sex, but outside the bounds of marriage, it is destructive.

The Christian girl group Barlow Girl have taken vows to wait to have sex until they are married.

The Jonas Brothers have taken similar vows. The WAIT on God and his timing.

Suspending our appetites requires SELF-CONTROL. It requires saying, "NO" to ourselves.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,"

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

The term DELAYED GRATIFICATION has been used before. Putting something off now for something better later.

A study was conducted in the 60's called the Marshmallow Test. Where they told a child he could have one marshmallow now or wait and have 2 later. That test was repeated recently by

Dr. David Walsh. Here are his findings.

Youtube Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0oPuAO3M8c>

Dream of Breakfast at Restaurant