


## Part 51 | **God's Ways. God's Timing.**

Acts 23:12-24:27

God has clear **PLANS** for us,**a clear plan for Paul** Acts 23:11; 9:1-19; 26:12-18 **a clear plan for us** Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 139:16; 2 Timothy 1:9; Proverbs 20:24& often accomplishes them in **WAYS** we wouldn't expect**let God be God** Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33 **"trust him when you cannot trace him"** Romans 8:28ffand at **TIMES** we wouldn't choose.**be patient and steadfast** Psalm 37:7; 27:14**trust with open hands** Proverbs 3:5-6; Ecclesiastes 3:11

Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!

Text **"CONVERSATION"** to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, **"Pray for..."** followed by your request.

## Gospel Conversations

Part of our **Enduring Reach** vision is:*By 2030 the people of Wawasee Bible will engage in 10,000 Gospel Conversations*

### Types of "Gospel Conversations"

Any *intentional* conversation with someone you hope to meet Jesus counts as a Gospel Conversation. As you count your conversations, try to categorize them as to what "level" of a conversation it is.*NOTE, there is **not** a "right" or "wrong" here, it's just a tool to help you gradually move toward level 5 conversations with those far from God, with hopes that they might meet Jesus.*

### Categories of Gospel Conversations:

**1 Connecting** (News/Weather/Sports)  
These are casual "connecting" conversations. We all have them every day, multiple times, even with those we're closest to.**2 Personal** (Personal Details, Family, etc.)  
Personal conversations go further to reveal or disclose something from each other's personal lives. Family, vocation, frustrations, personal joys, interests, etc.**3 Their Story**  
Here you learn something of their *spiritual* background, knowledge, interest, etc.**4 My Story**  
Sharing part or all of your faith story.**5 God's Story**  
Sharing part or all of the Gospel with them, Jesus's work, our response, etc.

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



## Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

## Welcome to Life Group!

### Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's some questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going.

1. What is the longest line you've ever had to wait in? Was it worth it?
2. God wants us to learn to wait well, which is a challenge for many of us because there seem to be less and less things we have to wait for (think fast food and overnight delivery). But there are things that still require us to wait. How many things can you think of that we still commonly have to wait for in our society? Which of the things you thought of is hardest for you to wait for?
3. When we find ourselves struggling in "God's waiting room", we often try to put on a brave face so no one thinks we lack faith or are a complainer. However, being honest with God and with other people is one of the most helpful things we can do. When it comes to being honest with others while you're stuck waiting or going through a tough time, put a checkmark next to the statement below that best represents how you tend to respond in that situation.

- I downplay what I'm feeling.
- I overshare with too many people.
- I acknowledge what I'm feeling but tend to keep it to myself.
- I share appropriately with the important people in my life.
- I complain about the situation more than I share how I'm doing.
- I have one or two people I share with.
- I'm not sure how I feel until I've talked to someone about what I'm going through.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching,** *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

## Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.

4. When we're stuck in waiting, we need to focus on what God wants us to do more than what we want Him to do. In **Colossians 1:9-14**, the Apostle Paul wrote down a prayer for the believers in the church at Colossae in which he first asked for them to understand God's will and then to live it out in daily life. How might what Paul prayed for impact a person's attitude and actions when they're stuck in God's waiting room?

<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the

*(Study Guide continues on back panel...)*

# Welcome to Wawasee!

## OUR OUTCOMES

This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

*If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...*



1 | Receiving From God.

Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?



2 | Responding To God.

How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?



3 | Receiving From Others.

Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?



4 | Moving Toward Others.

How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)



5 | Going to those Far from God.

How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

## Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find for Psalm 13 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

TO THE **CHOIRMASTER**. A **PSALM** OF **DAVID**. <sup>1</sup> How **long**, O **LORD**? Will you **forget** me **forever**? How **long** will you **hide** your **face** from me?

<sup>2</sup> How **long** must I **take counsel** in my **soul** and have **sorrow** in my **heart** all the day? How **long** shall my **enemy** be **exalted** over me? <sup>3</sup> **Consider**

and **answer** me, O

**LORD** my God; **light up** my **eyes**, **lest** I **sleep** the

**sleep** of **death**, <sup>4</sup> **lest**

my **enemy** say, "I have **prevailed** over him,"

**lest** my **foes** **rejoice**

**because** I am **shaken**. <sup>5</sup>

But I have **trusted** in

your **steadfast love**; my

**heart** shall **rejoice** in

your **salvation**. <sup>6</sup> I will

**sing** to the **LORD**,

**because** he has dealt

bountifully with me.

N H C O U N S E L E S T C  
P F A C E X A L T E D R H  
R R L O N G L I G H T U O  
E E O N D B V P F O E S I  
V J R S T E A D F A S T R  
A O D I A C T G O Y O E M  
I I S D K A I F R P R D A  
L C L E E U O O E S R E S  
E E A R V S N R V A O A T  
D S H A K E N G E L W T E  
A L D A N S W E R M F H R  
V E S H E A R T E N E M Y  
I E Y E S H I D E S O U L  
D P E L O V E M L S I N G

## life groups Study Guide (continued)

knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 (ESV)

- Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you to have or experience?

5. One of the challenges of waiting is learning to be honest with God about what we're feeling, while at the same time not showing a lack of faith in God's care for us and his plan. **Psalm 13** is a very honest expression of David's struggle with waiting for God to work. What sticks out to you the most about this psalm?

- Do you think there is a difference between being honest and complaining? If so, what is it?
- How can we honestly complain to God without it becoming a lack of trust?
- What do you think impacts people's willingness to be honest with God?
- How easy is it for you to be honest with God about what you're going through?
- Has your willingness to be honest with God changed over the years? If so, what do you think has caused that change?
- In this psalm, David balances his honesty at the beginning with praise at the end. How hard do you find it to be both honest with God about what you don't like and yet still praise him?

### Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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# ACTS

## EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, April 21, 2024



PART 51

God's Ways.  
God's Timing.



ACTS 23:12-24:27



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our Digital Announcements & Connect Card.

<https://wawasee.today>