

**Adult Study Guide for January 10, 2021**  
***Hurry Up and Wait: Hopeful Anticipation***

Goal: To “wait well” by learning to hold on to God’s promises, to keep living our lives, and to keep looking for a breakthrough.

Key Verse: *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” – Acts 1:7-8 (NIV2011)*

1. We often find ourselves looking forward to important events such as the birth of a baby, the celebration of a birthday or anniversary, a family vacation, or a holiday gathering. While anticipation can be half the fun, it also tries our patience. What makes it so difficult to wait? What helps you to be patient and calm in the “in between” times?
2. Review the story in Acts 1:3-9. The first followers of Jesus were asked to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit after the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus did not give his disciples times or dates when the Spirit would come, he just asked them to wait. Why do you think God asks us to wait through uncertain times? Read Acts 1:12-14. What did the disciples do while they were waiting?
3. Read Acts 2:1-13. In this story about Pentecost, at least 15 different people groups are hearing the truth of God in their heart language. How did this event help to launch the rapid growth of the early church? How does prayer prepare us for God’s blessing?
4. As a result of the faithful waiting of the disciples, 3000 people became followers of Jesus that day and were baptized. That means for every person in the upper room, 25 people came to faith in Christ. What does this event teach us about the value of waiting for God to act before we do? Why is it so important to remember the promises of God? How can our misunderstanding of God’s purpose lead us to false expectations? (Acts 1:6)
5. Read Acts 1:15-26. Why was it important for the work of the early church to continue while they were waiting for the promised Spirit? How does a commitment to prayer support the nuts and bolts of life and leadership in the church? (Galatians 6:9)
6. In the process of waiting, the disciples kept looking for a breakthrough even though they did not know exactly what that would be. The power of the Holy Spirit that came upon them enabled them to be effective witnesses to the gospel. What breakthrough from God are you waiting for? How will the promises of God help you to wait? (Psalm 27:14; 37:7; 130:5-6; Isaiah 30:18; 40:31; Romans 8:22-25; James 5:7-8)