



Waiting Room or Work Room

What is your favorite fast food restaurant?

SET IT UP

Jesus told his followers to expect trials. As much as we don't like them, trials can actually serve a beneficial purpose. Why? Because God can redeem, use, or work through the undeserved and unavoidable trials in our lives. James, the brother of Jesus, makes this point clearly. He calls to rejoice when we're tempted to complain; to stay when we want to run; to pray for wisdom, not just deliverance; and to see the bigger picture behind the pain.

CHAT IT UP

1. **What is your favorite meal? How long does it take to prepare?**
2. **Come up with a list of at least ten modern-day trials. What difficult circumstances do people face today?**
3. **Read James 1:2-4. Why should we “consider it pure joy” when we face trials?**
4. **Mark shared four ways to work while we wait. As I read them, rate them on a scale of one to ten using your hands based on how difficult it is for you. (1 = Easy and 10 = Hard.)**
 - By celebrating what will happen in me, instead of resenting what has happened to me.
 - By choosing to hang in, when I just want to give up.
 - By praying for wisdom, when I just want to pray for deliverance.
 - By focusing on the bigger picture when I just want to focus on my pain.
5. **Have you ever watched someone “wait well?” What did you observe?**
6. **What word typically describes you during a trial? What word you like to describe you?**
7. **Waiting sounds passive, but for the Christian, waiting is active. What steps can you take this week to get the most out of the small or big trials in your life?**

WRAP IT UP

We will all face trials. We can come out the other side bitter or better. The difference? Whether we work while we wait. Your waiting room can be God's greatest work room.

LEADER TIPS

Use the reactions to question four to go deeper. Ask great followup questions to get the conversation going.