

“I Don’t Wait Anymore” chapter 4 study outline

When my plan for my life first fell apart, I remember doubling down on the things that I thought were mine, the things I thought I needed. Dreams. Plans. Comfort. Relationships. I remember thinking ... *God, what else are you going to take?* But everything changes when we see Him as the prize worth our whole lives (Matthew 13:44). It isn’t “God, what else are you going to take?” anymore — now it’s “God, you can have it all if it means I can know you better.”

Let’s be honest — our dreams mean a lot to us. We can’t see Him as worth that until we see *what He’s really worth*. And we can’t see what He’s really worth until we deep-dive into His Word and get to know Him for who He really is — not just who worship songs and other people tell us He is.

Let’s start with **Luke 9**.

- **SEEING.** In verses 1-17, we see glimpses of who Jesus is, His power and concern for people. We see it through what His disciples can do as they go out in His name, and we see it as He feeds the crowd of people.
- **BELIEVING.** The disciples saw it too, and because of what they saw, in verses 18-20 Peter is willing to state his belief in who Jesus is.
- **PURSUING.** Jesus is the one who tells them that belief will cost them everything if they decide to see it through. In verses 21-27, He explains the death He will die, then tells His disciples they will have to sacrifice everything too. (We read that in week 1 too, with the story of Peter and Jesus in John 21.) It can seem like a high price, but it’s worth the reward — an eternal relationship with God. The higher we view Him, the lower the price seems.
- **TREASURING.** In verses 28-36, we see Peter so caught up in who Jesus is that he doesn’t even want to return to his normal life. He wants to just stay there. Until heaven, we have to live in the normal world too, just like Peter ... but we should do it with the lens of who we’re living for and the future we’ll have with Him one day. Later in the chapter, verses 57-62, we see people who say they want to follow Jesus but each has a specific thing they want in addition to Jesus. Jesus told them that wouldn’t work.

Questions for discussion:

- Make it specific for you like Jesus did for the people in this passage. What would be the thing in your life He would ask you to be willing to let go of?
- Do you see your life in terms of an eternal destination or earthly dreams?
- Have you ever asked God this question: How can I know you so well that it changes the way I view everything else?
- Are you putting the time in now to read the Word to know God for who He is? (If you don’t know where to start, a great place to start is the book of John in the Bible. Also consider reading Jen Wilkin’s *Women of the Word* — it’s a big help in knowing how to read the Bible for yourself.)