

## “I Don’t Wait Anymore” chapter 5 study outline

For a lot of my life, I looked at Jesus as something I *have* — I have Him now, and I’ll live my life, and at the end of my life I’ll still have Him. It was like I’d tucked Him in my pocket to help me through life while I lived out my dreams and goals. I’d never thought of Him as a destination — that my life is meant to run toward Him, to pursue more and more of Him until I see Him face to face. I’d always thought of Him more as a copilot than the prize I spend my life chasing.

**Have you ever done that? Have you ever thought of God more as the means to the life you want than the prize of your whole life? That God is meant to provide you the life you want rather than your life bringing you more of God?**

Think back on **Hebrews 11** and **Revelation 22** for a moment.

- We see all kinds of different journeys in Hebrews 11 — some harder than others, but all requiring faith and a view of eternity with God as the goal. His is the “better country.” And like it says in Revelation 22, we will see Him face to face. The whole Bible culminates in that chapter as if to say, “Focus here.”

Let’s take a minute now and look at **marriage** and **singleness** specifically, how those journeys are described biblically.

- Read **Ephesians 5:22-33**. We could get lost in the weeds here, but the main takeaway from this passage is — “as the church submits to Christ” and “as Christ loves the church.” A marriage lived well is a picture of the gospel to the world. It has profound meaning in that way — meaning much bigger than just the marriage. It points people to the bigger picture and a bigger love.
- Now read **1 Corinthians 7:17-40**. It’s important to know more about the context of this chapter and book to understand what Paul is saying here. (I recommend a good study Bible as a starting point to help you unpack what Paul is saying in each part.) Paul isn’t saying that once you become a follower of Jesus, you have to get married or have to stay single. He’s not elevating married life over single life but giving everyone the freedom to pursue Jesus right where they are. We already read where Paul wrote in Ephesians that marriage is a picture of the gospel. Now in this chapter he lists advantages to the single life too. **Bottom line: Singleness isn’t a “consolation prize” life** — like “oh, you’re not married, so now you have more time for Jesus!” If Jesus really is the prize of our lives, then singleness by design is an amazing life. We just have to let go of what *we* think is the prize of our lives.

### Questions for discussion:

- Have you had the expectation that your journey through life should look a certain way? What’s hard to you about letting that expectation go? Have you asked God to help you catch a vision for Him as the prize of your life?
- Over the last few weeks, we’ve looked at how vast God’s love is for us, for you. What are you doing in your life to get to know that love more?