

## “I Don’t Wait Anymore” chapter 8 study outline

Have you had a moment (or a lot of moments) where you looked at your life and thought ... *this doesn’t look anything like what I thought my life would look like.*

**Do you sometimes feel like your life is “less than”?** We come by those feelings honestly. The heart inside us desires things like marriage and a family, and the world outside us says we need them to be complete. What if we don’t have them?

Do you remember in our chapter 1 study when we looked at John 21? We saw Jesus tell Peter that his story might not look the way he wanted it to, and Peter pointed at John and said — *what about this guy? Will his road be difficult too?*

Jesus’ response? *Don’t worry about what his life will look like. You follow Me.* It was a conversation saturated in the fact that Jesus loved Peter, and Peter loved Jesus. And what Jesus was saying was ... *keep your eyes on me. Trust me to write the story.*

Our roads may all look different, and they may be hard in different ways. But that doesn’t mean that the story God is writing for us isn’t the best story possible — God’s definition of best just might be different than ours. It might mean we know Him more by holding tight to Him in a hard season. It might mean that we get to help more orphans or share His love with a different set of people who might not know Him otherwise. **All in all, our story is part of something bigger than ourselves.** Let’s look at a few passages that show us that truth.

### Read Acts 17:24-27.

- In the chapter 2 study, we looked at this passage to see how God pursues us personally with His love. Now let’s look at it through a different lens — let’s look at how He might be using our lives to show others His love. If God orchestrated the paths of that crowd to be right where Paul was that day so they could hear the gospel, He’s surely orchestrating other people’s paths to cross yours, too — and the life you’re living is exactly the one you’re supposed to be living so that you can meet them. What are some practical ways you can start showing God’s love to other people right where you are?
- God doesn’t want you to lay down the things you’re pursuing just to pursue other things. He wants you to pursue *Him, not a life calling.* (Have you been using some of the resources we talked about in the chapter 4 study to dig into his Word?) But as you pursue Him, are there different ways you can invest your life right where you are? (It can be as involved as foster care or as simple as inviting your next-door neighbor over for a meal.)

### Questions for discussion:

- Is it hard to imagine that the story God has for you might actually be better than the one you want for yourself?
- Have you ever offered God a blank check to spend your life however He wants? What would you have to lay down in order for that to happen?