

While We Wait

The Gospel in Motion

[Acts 1:4-5;12-14](#)

As we enter this third week in our Acts sermon series, it helps to review the first two weeks. Week one, we realized that we are just like the first disciples, who become apostles and were sent with a commission - to make disciples of all nations. We considered to whom we are being called in this season.

Week two, after delivering the great commission to His disciples and assuring them they will receive power, He immediately ascends into heaven. They are left standing there wondering what is next. If their purpose was to be Jesus' witnesses, we considered why God put us on earth.

This week we re-read Acts 1:4-5 to be reminded of Jesus' commission, and in our main text (v.12-14) we find the disciples in Jerusalem, in the upper room where they were staying, "constantly devoting themselves to prayer."

WHY? What was the purpose of their waiting? Jesus doesn't give the disciples the reason why they are waiting. Scripture tells us hundreds of times to wait and there are countless examples of waiting. Paul waiting after his encounter with Jesus in which he was struck blind on the road to Damascus. Jacob fleeing in fear after stealing his brother Esau's birthright and blessing. Abraham and Sarah waiting 25 years for the birth of a child. Waiting can be a form of recovery that allows us to cool off about what happened, and be prepared for our next chapter. **When have you been hit out of the blue with a period of waiting? How and why was that time effective for you?**

HOW? How were the disciples to navigate that time of waiting? Three things characterize their waiting: 1) They **pray** immediately upon entering the room; 2) they **pray together**, while they waited together while they discerned together, not alone, communities make better decisions than any one person; 3) they **expect** God to act. **What situation of waiting do you have right now that you can utilize this structure?**

WHEN? How do we recognize the times **when** we're supposed to stop and wait? Waiting is a part of our calling, as emphasized in scripture. As Allen emphasized, the gift of this passage in Acts to encourage us to be comfortable with waiting. **This week, how you can you help yourself and those in your circles wait and understand the value of rest?**