

ALLEY Rundown – April 13-14, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Can't Hardly Wait (Esau's Impatience) • Genesis 25:24-34

Today's Key Question: What could you miss out on by not waiting?

Today's Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NIV)

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, everyone! I'm excited to be with you today, and I'll be honest, I get a little impatient waiting for this time to arrive. I love it, and I absolutely *do NOT* love waiting.

Waiting can be difficult! I wonder if any of you have trouble waiting for something you really want – like your favorite food. I found this video that shows exactly what I'm talking about. Check out this video called the Marshmallow Test.

VIDEO: Marshmallow Test

Those poor kids had a hard decision, didn't they? When you're holding something tempting in your hand, like a marshmallow for these kids, it might be more difficult to resist—or more difficult to wait. This is true for us in all kinds of situations, isn't it? It's easy to try to do what you want right when you want to do it.

Most of the time it's harder to wait. Is it ever better to just wait? Is it better to wait *all* the time? When are times in life when the best choice is to wait instead of acting immediately? More than that, what are you giving up by impulsively acting now instead of pausing and waiting for a little bit?

Great questions—and maybe ones that don't have a clear-cut answer. It's a good thing we've got a starting point.

Hold up the Bible.

This book has all kinds of wisdom when wrestling with tough questions. We'll be taking a look at two brothers today—and one of those brothers is pretty impatient.

Let's check it out.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (16:50)

"Impatience. It will make what you think you want now, way more important than what you know you'll have later.

Even though Esau and Jacob were twins, Esau was born first. Because of this, Esau was entitled to the birthright. This inheritance was nothing you would ever sell. Ever. For any price.

The only downside was that the firstborn had to wait to get it.

And in our story, Esau didn't want to wait. All because he was hungry. Doesn't seem like an even trade, does it?

The lasting benefits of his rights as the firstborn son were handed over for a bowl of stew! Sure, Esau was hungry—maybe even really hungry. But let's be real. Esau was not in danger of actually starving. Esau could have easily prepared his own meal without Jacob's help . . . and without giving up his whole birthright!

Because of Esau's impulsive decision, more was lost than just that. Many bad things happened, including a lot of fighting within the family.

It's easy for us to listen to this story and think we would never be so impulsive. But each one of us can easily fall into the same trap. Racing through homework just to get it done, instead of taking the time to understand it, which can help you not fail a test later.

Sitting on the bench on your school team and not starting or not getting a ton of playing time. You might just quit—instead of sticking it out, practicing, and getting better.

Waiting is hard! Regardless of your age, it's something we have to constantly work on. Don't forget what happens when we follow Jesus. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in us to help us. All we must do is ask God for assistance in those situations when we think we just can't wait one more minute.

By going to God, it could keep you from losing something valuable, or it can help you wait a little longer for something better. As you head to your Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

What could you miss out on by not waiting? It's probably not going to be your inheritance like Esau, but it might just be something significant and meaningful in your life. Before we head off, let's pray together to ask God for help being patient and learning to wait."

SLIDE: Theme Background

Large Group Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

OFFERING:

There's a ministry that we are supporting with our offering until the summer. It's called Morning Star Mission and it's located right near here, in Joliet, IL.

SLIDES: Morningstar pictures (*scroll through as the leader talks about the mission*)

Since its beginning in 1909, Morning Star Mission has had one main goal — to help people in need. Morning Star Mission helps people who are struggling to have enough money to live. They have a shelter that gives them a place to live if they don't have a home. People in the community can go to the mission to get clothes and food if they need it too. AND they tell people about Jesus and his love for them while they are helping them, how cool is that?

Morning Star doesn't just stop there. They have many programs that they offer people to help them get in a better financial place so that they don't need the help anymore. Morning Star is a mission that is changing lives in our area!

SLIDE: Theme