

## Discussion Guide

08/25/2024

# Update Pending

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### Main Idea

To keep my iPhone updated, I first need to download the update. I'll use this process as a spiritual analogy for today's discussion. Just as you must actively use updates on your phone to benefit from them, spiritually, you must go beyond listening and actively practice what you learn.

### Anchor Verse:

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13 NIV)*

### Download

While weekend experiences are important, true growth happens through ongoing engagement, such as midweek chapels and HC groups. These opportunities help deepen your faith, discipleship, and relationships.

Read: James 1:22; Matthew 13:1-9

In what specific ways can I ensure that my spiritual life is not just about hearing or receiving God's word but actively applying and living out its teachings in my daily life?

### Plug In

Just as your phone needs to be connected to power for updates to apply, we must stay connected to God's power, which often requires slowing down to hear His voice. This "reset" period can be frustrating, much like being without a functioning phone, but it is essential for spiritual growth.

In what areas of my life do I need to slow down and prioritize time with God to better connect with His presence and experience the changes He wants to bring about? How can I create space in my daily routine to intentionally slow down and connect with God's power, despite the frustrations or disruptions this may cause?

### **Press On**

In the Bible, figures like Moses, Elijah, and Paul experienced periods of slowing down and preparation to receive guidance and be equipped for their missions. These times of "updating" were crucial for fulfilling their God-given assignments.

Read: Philippians 3:13-14

In what areas of my life do I need to embrace a period of slowing down or pausing, so I can better prepare and equip myself for the next steps in fulfilling God's purpose for me?

## **SUMMARY**

If you're feeling stuck or that life has slowed down, it might be a time when God wants to deepen your relationship with Him. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing for His ministry, periods of slow progress can be essential for spiritual preparation. Embrace these times as opportunities for growth and connection with God, as they are part of His plan for deeper transformation.

## **CALL TO ACTION**

1. Reflect on James 1:22 and Matthew 13:1-9. Identify practical ways to implement God's teachings in your daily life. Read Philippians 3:13-14 and consider where in your life you might need to pause for spiritual preparation.
2. Create Space for God: Evaluate your schedule and identify areas where you can intentionally slow down. Prioritize time with God to stay connected to His power.
3. Commit to participating in Midweek Chapel, HC Groups, and the Dream Team gatherings to deepen your faith and relationships. They provide opportunities for ongoing spiritual growth beyond weekend services. Visit our webpage [HERE](#) for more information.

# GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

**Game:** Most Unique

Description: Go around the room and have each person share something that makes him or her unique or unusual, such as “I’ve never left the state I was born in” or “I am one of 10 kids.” The more unique the facts, the more fun the icebreaker becomes.

Tips: Give examples of unique or unusual facts, and be willing to share your answer first. This activity often creates starting points for conversations between members.