



Week beginning June 14th

Preparing a People: Promise in the Waiting

Opening Questions

- What thoughts have stayed with you from Sunday's message on this theme?
- What's something you've had to wait a long time for? What kind of emotions or feelings did you experience as you waited?

Getting into the text

Read Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 and Matthew 9:35-10:23

- How does Sarah respond when she is told she will have a child? Why do you think she reacted in this way?
- How would you describe her reaction when the child was born?
- How did Jesus respond when the crowds came to him?
- Jesus sent the disciples out on a mission. What were they to do? Under whose authority were they to do these things?

- Why do you think they were told to take so little with them?

- What were they to do when they reached a town?

Applying the Bible to your life

- How does waiting challenge your faith? Do you have any spiritual practices which help you to hold firm during your times of waiting?

- Jesus sends you out as worker to bring in the harvest today. What do the instructions for the disciples mean for you in the 21st century? What should you do? How can you 'keep it simple'?

Something to pray about

David wrote, '**Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.**' (Psalm 27:14)

- Offer to God the things you are waiting for and ask him to help you to trust in his timing.
- Pray for those in your community who are like 'sheep without a shepherd' and ask God to help you to reach out to them with compassion.
- Pray for boldness to share the good news of Jesus with those you meet this week.