

RECAP

Were you able to join someone in the wilderness as a fellow traveler? How was that experience for you? Where did you see God show up?

IDEA 1

Expectations are powerful, they are formational, they influence our beliefs and behavior.

- **What expectations did you have about God and your life before you became a believer?**
- **What expectations do you currently have about God and your life?**

IDEA 2

Our perspective is limited, God's perspective is limitless. Our expectations are limited, and God's reality is limitless.

- **How do we alter our expectations to align with God's reality?**
- **We usually think of reality falling short of expectations but occasionally we have moments where the reverse is true—the reality is so much better. How has God exceeded your expectations?**

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

When our beliefs are based on our desires and dreams, they are mere expectations and leave us open to disappointment and disillusionment. But when our beliefs are based on God's promises they move beyond expectations and into hope!

Read Romans 8:23 out loud as a group.

"We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children."

Pick an activity you do regularly throughout your week. It could be washing your hands, starting your car, making food, etc. Whenever you do that activity, remember Romans 8:23 and the hope we have in Jesus.

Share your activity with your group and check in with each other throughout the week to see how the practice is going.

APPLICATION

Jesus did not meet the expectations people were hoping for.

The expectation was power, the reality was humility. The expectation was position, the reality was surrender. The expectation was now, the reality was not yet.

Brian asked us to think about the question: "Where do I want to be in 5 years?"

It's not a question of power or position, it's a question of: "Who do I want to be?" "How can I surrender more?" "How can I be more humble and more like Jesus?"

Ponder these questions this week with Jesus. Share what you are processing with your group.

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