

Hope City

Discussion Guide

July 19, 2026

The Drop

Goodness of God: Week 4

Pastor Wayne Francis

Main Idea

The return of Jesus is more than a future promise—it is a present reality that should shape how we live today. Just as Noah faithfully built the ark because he trusted God's Word before he saw any evidence, believers are called to build their lives around God's Kingdom while waiting for Christ's return. Instead of living with apathy or anxiety, followers of Jesus are invited to live with confident anticipation, trusting God's promises and joining Him in what He is building. The question every believer must answer is: What are you building while you wait?

Anchor Verse: "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." (Psalms 23:6, ESV).

Read: Psalm 23:1-6

1. Faith Builds Before It Sees

Noah's story reminds us that faith is demonstrated through obedience before circumstances make sense. God announced the coming flood long before there was any evidence that rain was coming, yet Noah chose to trust God's Word over what he could see. For years he faithfully built the ark while others ignored God's warning and continued living as though nothing would ever change. His obedience was not based on visible proof but on confidence in God's promise. Likewise, God calls believers today to build lives of faith, obedience, and holiness even when His promises have not yet been fulfilled.

Scripture: Genesis 6:13–14, Genesis 6:17, Genesis 6:22 and Hebrews 11:7

Discussion:

- Why is it often difficult to obey God before we see the outcome?
- Where is God asking you to trust His Word rather than your circumstances?
- What can we learn from Noah's perseverance during years of waiting?
- How can faith shape the way you build your life today?

2. Live with Anticipation, Not Apathy or Anxiety

Peter explains that many people will dismiss or ignore God's promise that Christ will return. Others may believe Jesus is coming but live as though His return has little impact on their daily lives. Some believers even respond with fear, wondering whether they will be ready. Scripture offers a better posture: hopeful anticipation. Because our hope is anchored in Christ, His return should inspire faithful living, joyful expectation, and confidence in His promises rather than indifference or panic.

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:3–6, Matthew 24:38, Titus 2:13

Discussion:

- Which response best describes your current perspective: apathy, anxiety, or anticipation?
- What distractions keep people from living with eternity in view?
- How does the promise of Christ's return encourage believers today?
- What would change if you intentionally lived each day expecting Jesus to return?

3. Build What Jesus Is Building

Jesus declared that He is building His Church, and He invites every believer to participate in His mission. Noah built an ark because he trusted God's promise; today we are called to build God's Kingdom by serving others, making disciples, sharing the gospel, and investing in the local church. We do not build in order to earn God's acceptance but because we have already received His grace through Jesus Christ. Just as Noah's first response after leaving the ark was worship, our lives should continually reflect gratitude, obedience, and commitment to God's purposes while we wait for Christ's return.

Scripture: Matthew 16:18, Genesis 7:16, Genesis 8:20

Discussion:

- What does it mean to actively build what Jesus is building?
- How can serving the local church reflect your faith in Christ?
- Why is worship an appropriate response to God's faithfulness?

- What practical step can you take this week to invest in God's Kingdom?
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SUMMARY

The world teaches us to organize our lives around temporary events and experiences, but Scripture calls us to build our lives around the eternal promise of Christ's return. Noah's life demonstrates what faithful anticipation looks like. He trusted God's Word, obeyed His commands, and continued building even when no one else understood what God was doing. In the same way, believers today are called to faithfully build lives of obedience, worship, and service while waiting for Jesus to return. The question is not whether Christ is coming, but whether our lives reflect that we truly believe He is.

CALL TO ACTION

This week, identify one practical way you can intentionally build what Jesus is building.

Possible next steps:

- Invite someone to church.
 - Join or faithfully attend an HC Group.
 - Begin serving on a Serve Team.
 - Spend intentional time each day in Scripture and prayer.
 - Share your faith with someone this week.
 - Evaluate whether your priorities reflect anticipation of Christ's return.
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GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

What Are You Waiting For?

Begin by asking everyone in the group to share something they are currently looking forward to. It could be a vacation, a birthday, a concert, graduation, a new job, a new pair of shoes, or another exciting event. After everyone has shared, ask:

- What have you done to prepare for it?
- How has your anticipation influenced your decisions or priorities?

Transition by saying:

*"Pastor Wayne showed us that people naturally build their lives around the things they're anticipating.
The question the sermon asks is: If we believe Jesus is coming again, are we building our lives
around His return?"*

Then invite the group into the discussion questions.