

News Story Summary

Waiting in line for others has become a side job in recent years. People hire someone else to sit in (or sleep overnight) for them in a line as they wait to buy tickets, get the newest phone, to be one of the first in a store, or other line-drawing events. The jobs pay per the hour—which cost more in bad weather or for high-profile events—and the line sitter will update their customers using texts and photos. Then, when it’s time to switch spots, the customer switches places with the line sitter. There are even apps and web sites to connect line sitters and customers.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “people pay professional line sitters to wait for them.”)

Focus Attention

To supplement (or replace) the Focus Attention idea, prepare to summarize the news story above. As the group arrives, direct them to answer the following question on a board or large sheet of paper: “What’s the longest you’ve ever waited for something?” After most have arrived, summarize the new trend of professional line sitters. Ask: *Would you ever pay for someone to stand in line for you? Why or why not? Then ask: What kinds of things make you impatient as you wait for them?* (Potential responses: red light, fast food, etc.) Propose: *As a culture, we’re not very good at waiting. Today’s story highlights how a long-awaited promise was finally fulfilled—after several hundred years.*

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea, call attention to the news story about the line sitters. Ask: *How do you typically respond when God doesn’t fulfill a promise in your time frame? Why might God delay in fulfilling a promise?* Point out that God always keeps His promises. Say: *When and how God keeps his promises may be different than you expected (like the people who expected a political Messiah), but He is always faithful.*