

Here we are, still at home, and I have been thinking back to last season, remembering **Out of the Woods**. I've thought many times about the testimonies from their cast party – especially testimonies from the cast members who were trees. You see, the trees that were on stage heard the truth of God's Word that was being spoken over and over again. They were frozen in place, during long rehearsals and during the show. All that they could do was listen.

LISTEN! It is the one word that God continues to place on my heart...and one that I have learned so much about in my time at STP. During the past few weeks, we have been in a situation that has forced us to be still. It is much like the process of a show coming together. We wait for our scene to come up, we are trying to figure out where our role fits into everything, and we are weary of not being able to see the bigger picture that our director visualizes. There is a lot of waiting, and the waiting can be hard.

During this time of staying at home, I am reminded that we are not the only ones who have been asked to wait. The Bible is filled with accounts of people waiting for Him. I'm reminded of the Israelites waiting to enter the promised land and the prophets waiting for the Messiah. Since Jesus' death and resurrection, we have been waiting for His return. Waiting seems to be an important skill for those who love the Lord!

The great thing about waiting is that we have the chance to listen. Being still and quiet allows our ears to listen to what God might be trying to teach us. We really cannot underestimate the value of times when we have the chance to slow down and listen to His Word. Normally this would happen during classes and rehearsals, but now we have to do this on our own!! It is hard! We have to be very intentional about re-hearing God and rehearsing His truth while we are in our homes.

Now is the time to re-hear from God. It is the time to find a quiet spot, open our Bibles and spend time reading God's truth. The Holy Spirit will reveal new things to us as we read passages that may be familiar. God may lead you to discover truth in passages that you've never read. But if we never open our Bibles and rehearse our time with God, we are missing out!

We aren't together. We aren't in our regular pattern of final two weeks. But we need to keep that final two weeks' spirit going...the time of leaning in, trusting God and encouraging one another. Times of personal praise and worship, combing through scripture to find the verses that sustain us, and praying for each other. Make the choice to seek the Lord and ask Him to direct your day to serve Him!

Being quiet, listening and watching for God, is a skill that needs daily rehearsal. He will honor your time together each day as you open His Word. Let Him calm your anxiety! Let Him lead you through this odd transition! Let Him use you where you are as part of His bigger plan! Re-hear and rehearse His goodness, love and mercy every day by spending time in His Word.

KEY VERSES: Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him. Psalm 62:5

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8a