

Growth Group Lesson: November 25-26, 2023

Title: James: Do the Bible, Pt 9: “Patience in God’s Purposeful Plan” – James 5:7-12

Big Idea: Be patient with hope in the Lord’s second coming and in His character.

What in the message stood out to you?

Read James 5:7-12. What questions do you have?

1. Be patient because Christ is coming back. –James 5:7-8

Why has the second coming of Christ been such an encouragement and hope throughout the generations?

James emphasizes patience in waiting for the second coming of Jesus. How does the assurance of Christ's return affect your patience in the midst of challenges and frustrations?

2. Be patient because your words matter. – James 5:9

How have you seen grumbling impact the fellowship of the church and relationships?

How will you think and live differently today if you remember that “The Judge is at the door”? (v.9)

How can being mindful of our words, especially in times of frustration, contribute to patience and unity?

Read Ephesians 4:29-32. What are some tangible ways that you can build others up with your words?

3. Be patient because you can trust God’s character. – James 5:10-12

How does trusting in God's character influence our ability to be patient?

James points to the examples of the farmer, prophets, and Job. Which one did you resonate with the most and why?

How can we apply lessons from Job's story to our own experiences of waiting and trusting God?

Consider James' emphasis on the purpose of the Lord in trials. How does knowing that there is a plan for God's glory and our good impact our perspective during challenging times?

In what way do you need to make your “yes” truly mean “yes”, and your “no mean “no”? (v.12)

Gospel Connection:

What are areas in your life that you're failing to be patient in? Read 1 John 1:9 and spend some time in confession.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. God's grace brings salvation. God's grace also brings empowerment to live the life that he has called us to with Christ as our example.

How can the principles of patience, trust in God's character, and the hope of Christ's second coming shape your daily life?

"Next Steps" Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - Read and meditate on Revelation 21:1-8 this week. Pray that the Spirit would help you to keep the end in mind.
- With Others:
 - Consider who you've been grumbling against. Seek reconciliation, if needed.
 - PRAY daily this week for those whom you're most tempted to grumble against.
- On Mission:
 - Find an opportunity to share with an unbeliever this week about a trial you're struggling with and how you're trusting in the character of God in it.

Additional Scripture for reflection:

Romans 8:24-28.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Job 42:1-6

Galatians 5:16-26