

Week of February 5 - Wait for the Lord

Small Group Lesson 15

Connect

How does the depth of your relationships affect the way you speak to each other? Do you find that the closer you are, the more frank you become? Is this healthy? Why or why not?

Verses - James 5:7-11 (CSB)

7 Therefore, brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth and is patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Brothers and sisters, do not complain about one another, so that you will not be judged. Look, the judge stands at the door! 10 Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name as an example of suffering and patience. 11 See, we count as blessed those who have endured. You have heard of Job's endurance and have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about — the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Study

1. James gives several examples to encourage the oppressed and the persecuted. (v7, 10-11) What is the main point of teaching found in each example? (James 1:2-4)

2. Imagine the hardship of the farmer, the prophets, and Job. What truths does each example provide insight to help us stay focused on God, instead of our suffering?

3. What drives us to have strengthened hearts (v.8) that results in patience? (Psalm 76:7-9; 1 Peter 3:15; 5:8-10) How can believing this (v.8) give us hope in hardship?

☕ **DISCUSS:** We might be tempted to respond to our oppression by lashing out at those oppressing us or other innocent bystanders around us (v.9). Why is this not appropriate as a Christ follower? (Matthew 5:3-12; Romans 12:19; 1 Peter 2:21-23; Galatians 5:16-17)

🏃 **APPLY:** How the Christian response to oppression should be done in Christlikeness through the Spirit. But when such oppression is preventing gospel sharing or Spiritual growth, how are we to respond without being divisive?

Share

We are more likely to patiently endure trials when we keep in mind that the Lord will bring about good in the end. (Romans 8:28) Share examples of where you have seen this to be true in the Bible, and in your own life.

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to help us to be patient in times of trial.
- Pray for strengthened hearts knowing the Lord's coming is near.