

Leader Guide Session 11

Leader Notes:

Persevering, glad-hearted faith in God requires patience.

1. Be patient; the Lord is coming.
2. Be patient; God is accomplishing something in you.
3. Be patient with each other.
4. Be patient; God's promises are true.
5. Be patient with each other-seriously.

God uses both joys and sorrows to conform us to the image of His Son.

God's grace for us stays lavish and extravagant throughout our progressive sanctification.

God's promises are true. God has never betrayed you. He has never failed you.

As those who have experienced the sacrificial love of God in Christ, we live selfless lives, loving and encouraging and saying yes as often as we can to our brothers and sisters.

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Discussion:

- 1) James was writing to Christians who were likely externally oppressed and internally conflicted. His words of comfort address both situations. In fact, the two often go hand-in-hand, although sometimes we wrestle with one without the other.
 - How can external circumstances cause internal struggles? How can internal conflict spill out into external circumstances?
- 2) Currently, we all face some degree of struggle. Whether or not it's persecution or extreme suffering, we all struggle.
 - Are your current areas of stress and struggle primarily external, internal, or both? Explain.
- 3) In the video Matt highlighted five points in James's message of comfort and hope for believers who are suffering.
 - A) Be patient; the Lord is coming.
 - On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being never and 10 being constantly, how often do you think about Jesus' return?
 - Do you assume that we're more or less likely to expect Jesus' return than James's original audience in the early church? Why?
 - Read James 5:7-8. In what way do these verses express a foundational truth for our Christian faith?
 - How do they give comfort, hope, and patience in real-life hardship?
 - B) Be patient; God is accomplishing something in you.
 - How has God used suffering, oppression, struggle, and discipline to grow your relationship with Him and others?

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C) Be patient with each other.

- How can we, as the church, greatly help or hurt one another while enduring hardship?
- How does keeping in mind that the Judge is at the door fuel our patience toward one another?

D) Be patient: God 's promises are true.

- Read James 5:10 -11. Many men and women in the Bible experienced suffering. Which example is most encouraging and comforting to you? Why?
- What are some of your favorite promises from God's Word? Why are they especially meaningful to you?
- When have you found much-needed comfort in God's Word?

E) Be patient with each other seriously.

- How does patience allow our faith to grow?
- What remaining questions or comments do you have about the video teaching or discussion?
- What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?

Close in prayer.