

Viewer Guide Session 11

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.