

James 5: 7-18 Patience & Prayer in Suffering Trust in God

Transition:

The Bible consistently emphasizes the importance of patience and prayer for believers facing difficulties, providing both encouragement and guidance as they navigate life's various challenges. James encourages believers to endure challenges with steadfastness, knowing that the "coming of the Lord" is imminent. The call to "establish your hearts" suggests fortifying one's faith and maintaining hope despite the trials of life. James tells us to pray all the time about everything. God is personal and always near, why not talk to Him all the time about every detail that disturbs us and gives us joy.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from the farmer who waits for rain earlier and later? How should followers of Jesus wait for His coming? James. 5:7
2. What does it mean for a Believer to be patient and persevering?
3. In what ways do you struggle?

Fundamental:

Patience and prayer during suffering are central themes in the teachings of James, encouraging believers to trust in God's timing and to seek His presence both in times of hardship and celebration. "Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You are also patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." (V7)

1. What do you think that James means by, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." What is fervent prayer? James 5:16- 18
2. Would you describe your prayers as fervent when enduring suffering? When cheerful? How does sin affect our relationship with God, prayer, family, and church?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Pray about how you can meet a need for a friend.
2. Be intentional in praying fervently. Confess your sins.

Discipleship Tip:

Confess your sins one to another, strive to shape your character according to God's word. Maintain and grow your trust and hope in God's word. Be vulnerable with your small group. We lead by example.

Prayer:

Pray and tell God about the ways you are struggling and remember your family and friends who are struggling as well. Tell God what makes you cheerful and sing praise to Him. (V13). Pick one of these psalms of praise. Ps. 89:12, 95:6-7, 145:1-2, 145:2.