



WEEK 5: PATIENCE

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Life has a way of exposing our impatience, not only in the small disruptions, but in the deeper places where our hopes feel delayed, our prayers seem unanswered, people are slow to change, or God's timing feels hard to understand. Patience is not simply the ability to stay calm or wait longer. It is the Spirit-formed strength to remain faithful, loving, and steady when life does not move at the speed we prefer.

We can grow to a place where we view patience as active trust in God's character and timing. Through the image of a farmer waiting for the harvest, James reminds us that faithful waiting is not passive; it is the willingness to keep doing the next right thing while trusting God with what only He can do. And in 2nd Peter, we are reminded that what may feel like slowness to us is often the mercy and patience of God at work. As we abide in Jesus, the Spirit forms in us a patience that can endure suffering without becoming bitter, love others without demanding control, and wait on God without losing hope.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

James 5:7-11 (NIV)

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 **Waiting Is Difficult**

Impatience often shows us where we struggle to trust God's timing.

- a. What kinds of situations tend to make you the most impatient?
- b. Why do you think waiting can feel so frustrating or uncomfortable?

2 **Faithful in the Waiting**

James compares patience to a farmer waiting for a harvest.

- a. What do you think it means to remain faithful while waiting on God?
- b. How can we continue doing the "next right thing" even when nothing seems to be changing?

3 **Patience with People**

Sometimes the hardest place to practice patience is with others.

- a. Where has it been hardest for you to practice patience with others? Why?
- b. How did impatience affect that relationship?

4 **God's Timing**

2 Peter reminds us that what feels slow to us may actually be God's mercy at work.

- a. Have you ever looked back and realized God's timing was better than your own?
- b. Why is it difficult to trust God when we do not understand what He is doing?

5

Becoming Steady

The Holy Spirit forms patience in us so we do not become bitter or hopeless in difficult seasons.

- a. What usually happens in your heart when life is not moving the way you hoped?
- b. What do you think it looks like to remain hopeful while waiting?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Patience often reveals whether we trust God only for outcomes or also in the process.

- Do you tend to trust God more when life is moving quickly or slowly? Why?
- What might God want to teach you in a season of waiting?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Finding Patience—This week, take a few moments each day to reflect on:

- Where you feel rushed, frustrated, or discouraged.
- How to respond like Jesus would when you feel this way.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain faithful, steady, and hopeful even when life feels slow.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NIV), *"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Let the group rest in this promise as you close together in prayer.

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