



Faith in Real Life – James 5:7-20 Faith and longing

FOR DISCUSSION: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL MODEL:

How good are you at waiting? When have you been in a situation that seemed like it would never change?

What injustice the world today seems unchanging that you hope will one day?

How do you define patience? How has James 5:7-12 changed your perspective of patience?

What examples of patience does James give in James 5:7-12? What different aspects of patience does each bring out?

What does James 5:9 say about patience and why do you think he mentions that?

What common phrase does James 5:7-8 use in regard to patience? In your opinion, how does that relate to a Christian being patient?

In 5:11, James says, “The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.” How does his description of God’s character affect your ability to be patient?

What does James 5:13-19 say a Christian should do when sick?

What affect does confession of sin have on our wellness? (5:16)



FOR DISCUSSION: (Page 2)

Do you think prayer changes anything? Why?

What does James 5:19-20 say about the wandering believer? Why do you think James' letter ends with this encouragement?

CONTEMPLATIVE MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions does this message bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)



Leader Guide

Faith and longing. James 5:7-20

Faith In Real Life

Honest, realistic and practical words about faith in a real life world from the Epistle of James.

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

James 5:7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. 12 Above all, my brothers, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No", no, or you will be condemned.

James 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. 19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

The problem with daily life is it's so daily – Chuck Swindoll

Our unmet dreams and goals cause us to long to be well

What does faith in real life look like when real life is a little too real?



1. Patiently watch for the Lord's return

James 5:7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. 8 be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

We don't wait very well.

Hebrews 12:1 let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

James 5:11 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

2. Take care of one another

James 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

The Church is a caring community of prayer

14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

The Church is a caring community of confession

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

3. Help others find their way back to God

5:19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the "good news" that Jesus entered into our broken world to rescue us from sin. The good news is that through Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the cross, sinners are pardoned, the undeserving are given grace, and the broken are restored. There is no sin too heinous for God's forgiveness. There is no person so good in-and-of-themselves that does not require forgiveness. Salvation is a free gift of God to anyone who genuinely acknowledges their brokenness and confesses saving faith in the Son of God. It doesn't take strong faith, just genuine faith in order to be saved.



An example of how you could pray:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I'm broken and a sinner. I believe that Christ died on the cross for sin, and through his resurrection overcame sin and death. I believe in you. I thank you for saving me.

The good news does not end with a confession of faith. New faith can grow into deep faith if cultivated. Let someone at Sunridge know about your new-found faith, and inquire about our new believer's resource: God Time: Your First 31 Days. Follow Christ wholeheartedly by professing your faith publicly through baptism, learning the Bible by attending church regularly and pursuing the unique calling of Jesus in your life!