



Developing a Faith that Works Leader Guide

Session 12: How to Develop Patience Through Prayer

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as 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. Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned. Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” James 5:7-20 NIV

When to Be Patient

- When circumstances are _____.

“See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.” James 5:7b NIV

- When people are _____.

“Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.” James 5:10 NIV

- When problems are _____.

“As you know, we count as 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.” James 5:11 NIV

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Why Be Patient?

- Because _____.

“You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:8 NIV

- Because _____.

“As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered.” James 5:11a NIV

When Should I Pray?

- When I am _____.

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.” James 5:13a NIV

- When I am _____.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.” James 5:14-15 NIV

Three Kinds of Sickness

- Sickness unto _____.
- Sickness unto _____.
- Sickness unto _____.

- When I am _____.

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16 NIV

How Do You Pray for Each Other?

- _____.

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- Have the _____.

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:3 NIV

- Have a _____.

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16 NIV

- _____.

“But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt...” James 1:6 NIV

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the illustration of the farmer in James 5:7 say about patience?
2. The prophets of the Bible were patient with people who were unwilling or even uninterested in changing. Tell of someone in your past (a parent, spouse, friend, ect.) who offered you that same kind of patience.
3. The story of Job has been called the “Super Bowl of Suffering.” This faithful man of God lost his family, friends, and finances suddenly and unexpectedly. Few of us will ever come close to experiencing such loss. Yet Job never challenged or cursed God, even though he was thoroughly confused about what God was doing in his life. According to James 5:11, what did Job believe about God that enabled him to preserve without cursing God?
4. In James 5:13-20, we who are God’s people are encouraged to pray when we are in trouble and to confess our sins to one another. What benefits do we receive when we do this?