

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

James 5:7-12

For Starting

- If you could add TWO commandments to the existing ten, what would they be?
- What do you not want said at your funeral?
- What is your favourite book of the Bible? Why?
- Who is the most patient person that you know? What are some of the ways they demonstrate this virtue?

For Reviewing

- Which THREE examples of patient people does James give (v.7, v.10, v.11)?
- When do the rains come (v.7)? Why would this picture be important to the readers of James' letter?
- Why should Christians "*be patient and stand firm*" (v.8)?
- What will happen to Christians who grumble/argue with other Christians (v.9)?
- What did the Old Testament prophets do (v.10)?
- How will those who have persevered be rewarded (v.11)?
- Instead of swearing, what should Christians do (v.12)? How does this compare with Jesus' teaching (Matthew 5:34-37)?

For Discussion

- Why do you think James starts this section with "*Be patient*"?
- James gives 3 examples of patient people. How is each an example of patience?
- Why do faithful witnesses to God often suffer persecution? Where is their reward?
- "*One of the purposes of suffering is to build character.*" Do you agree/disagree? What consequences follow this statement?
- How does impatience negatively affect our Christians life? Consider what happened to: Abraham (Gen 16:1-2); Moses (Ex 32:19) and Peter (John 18:10).
- You could end by reading together James 5:7.

James 5:7-12 (NIVUK)

Patience in suffering

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.