

Just You Wait

Pastor Jeff Thompson | James 5:7-12

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER: How do you entertain yourself when you are waiting? When waiting is difficult, what is the first thing that you do?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Read Matthew 24:29-32. We know of the coming of Christ. and Christ Himself spoke on it. Why do we need reminding? Why does James remind us the churches of the coming of Christ?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

In what ways did Jesus Himself model steadfastness, suffering, or patience?

How does belief in Jesus Christ shape:

How do we interpret our suffering?

How do we wait?

How do we speak to one another in the waiting (vs. 9)?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Where in your life right now do you feel most impatient, and how does James's call to "be patient...until the coming of the Lord" challenge the way you respond in that area?

In moments of stress or conflict, how often do you say things you don't actually mean? What would it look like this week to practice slow, thoughtful, integrity-filled speech?

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

This week, take some time to talk to your children about patience. It may be helpful to bring some examples of times when patience is particularly hard, like waiting for a parent to come home from work, to be able to drive, or finding friends at school.

Use this conversation as a time to remind them that even when waiting is hard, the Lord is always there, Psalm 46:1

FURTHER STUDY:

From The Gospel Coalition (TheGospelCoalition.org), read "How God Uses Our Waiting."

From Desiring God ministries (DesiringGod.org), read "Faith in the Wilderness of Waiting."

Deeper by Dane Ortlund also covers a great deal about waiting on the Lord in all things.



True Religion

THE BOOK OF JAMES

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next weekend, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

- 1. Read James 5:13–18 slowly. What repeated action ties every part of this passage together? How does that emphasis prepare you for next week's text?**
- 2. This passage highlights the importance of prayer and forgiveness. How does the promise of forgiveness (v. 15) depend entirely on the work of Christ?**
- 3. How does the gospel free us from hiding our sin so we can confess to one another with honesty and hope?**
- 4. What human instincts normally replace our prayer life? (self-reliance, silence, despair, hiding sin, blaming God)**
- 5. What in this text confuses you?**
- 6. What in this text compels you?**
- 7. What makes it difficult to pray? Take time to pray that the hope of the Gospel—and the believers' future hope in glory—would impact how we pray in hard times. Ask your family or community group how we can reframe our commitment to pray in light of what Jesus has done for us?**