

James 5:1-12

How to prepare for Jesus return!

Life Group Study Guide

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For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

***Your Job Is To Build People,
Not Just Lead a Meeting***

**Note: Intended direction of discussion is listed in italics after some of the questions. Please do not read these 'answers' to your group but instead use them to help guide your group discussion.*

Life Group Life:

- Make sure everyone in your group knows everyone else. If you have new members take a few minutes getting to know them and learning how they came to be connected to your group.
- In the past week what has been a high or a low or both in your life?
*(Encourage each person in the group to share something from their week that has been a high and one thing that has been a low. There is not right or wrong answer to this question. **This is an exercise that offers the opportunity to celebrate or mourn with each other. For example, if a group member shares a "low" that is really significant stop what your group is doing and pray over/with that person right then and there.**)*
- Conclude your Life Group Life time with prayer.

Memory Verse:

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming.

James 5:7

If your group has more than 8 people you may want to break into groups of 4-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion. Then come back together at the end of the discussion time and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion.

Grow:

- ✚ **James 5:1-6 is written to people who are not Christians. It is written as a prophetic judgment upon the people who are oppressing the Christians. Read James 5:1-6.**
- ✚ **What have these people that James is writing about in verses 1-6 done?**
- ✚ **When someone is mistreated and abused how are they tempted to react to the people abusing them?**

- ✚ **Do you have anyone mistreating or abusing you? Who? How?** *(discussion leaders be sensitive to the responses this question might raise)*
- ✚ **James 5:1-6 is written to non Christians but now we come to what James writes to the Christians who are being mistreated and abused. Read James 5:7-8.**
- ✚ **How easy is it for you to be patient? Why would James ask the believers to be patient in face of suffering?**
- ✚ **Should we be patient in the face of suffering? Why? How?**
- ✚ **James says we should be patient until the Lord's return. Why is it important for us to be patient until the Lord's return?** *(Ultimately it is important for us to be patient until the Lord's return because impatience and retaliation against someone for what they have done to us is behavior authored by satan.)*
- ✚ **Read James 5:11.**
- ✚ **We see an important principle in this verse; God will bring good out of bad through his compassion and mercy. What could be the consequences of our impatience while we are enduring the bad?** *(We could end up missing the good that God brings.)*

Serve:

- ✚ **If our impatience can cause us to miss the good that God brings then it is important for us to trust in God and be patient no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in. How can we help each other be more patient, trust in God, and be prepared for the Lord's return?**
- ✚ **What are some specific ways you can trust in God and be patient this week?**

Share:

- ✚ **We must be prepared for the return of the Lord and we must allow God to use us to help others be prepared for the return of the Lord. Are there some people in your life that exhibiting patience could help them recognize Jesus Christ as their savior?**

Worship:

- ✚ **We live in expectancy of the day when Jesus will return. Everyone close your eyes for a moment and simply contemplate the day of Jesus return. *(after a few moments continue)* Now open your eyes. What emotion is in your heart as you think about His return?** *(This emotion could be positive and it could be negative. Take a few moments to explore with your group both positive and negative emotions allowing God to guide the conversation.)*
- ✚ **Close with prayer lifting up the things your group has shared with each other.**

Preparation for Next Time:

- Read James 5:13-20