

# Strong and Patient

(James 5)

## Introduction

We have been learning lessons from the book of James. In our first lesson, James taught us that if we want to become strong in our faith, we must become **wise**. In our second lesson, James taught us the importance of being **faithful**. In our third lesson, James taught us that to grow strong in our faith we must learn to always **speak kindly**. In the last lesson we learned that to become a stronger Christian, we must **humble** ourselves before God.

This week we will learn that growing stronger in our faith takes **patience**.

## Opening Prayer

Father, help us learn to be patient as you reveal Your plan for our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Memory Verse

*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.  
(Ephesians 4:2 NLT)*

## Lesson

**Ask:** Can you think of a time it was hard to be patient? What happened? [Teacher, encourage discussion.]

It can be so hard to be patient, but James tells us that trusting in the Lord's timing is part of every strong, maturing Christian's life.

James 5:7-9

*Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the **farmers** who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. (8) You, too,*

*must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. (9) **Don't grumble** about each other, brothers and sisters, **or you will be judged**. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!*

Having patience with God's plan is much better than grumbling. Look at what James said, "*Don't grumble...or you will be judged.*" When we complain about God's timing, it leads to His judgment.

James says, just like a farmer must wait for his crops to grow, we must wait on the Lord if we want to experience the blessings of His provision.

James 5:10-11

*For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (11) We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.*

**Ask:** Who is used as an example in this passage? (The prophets and Job)

A long time ago there lived a man named Job. He had a good relationship with God and he always did the right thing. He had seven sons and three daughters, whom he prayed for every day, and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 ox and 500 donkeys along with many servants.

Then one day the house fell down on them and they were all killed. All of his sons and daughters and his animals, and all of his servants died. On top of all that, he got some very painful sores all over his body.

Job had some pretty bad things to happen to him. How would you feel if those things happened to you? What would you do? Would you get angry at God? Would you blame God for all those bad things that happened to you?

Job's reaction was to fall to the ground and worshipped God. He said, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. May the name of the Lord be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by blaming God. He told his wife, "Sometimes we have good things in our life and sometimes we have bad things. We have to accept both."

So, Job waited patiently on the Lord, never knowing what was going to happen next.

Let's see what the results of Job's patience was:

Job 42:10-17

*When Job prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes. In fact, the LORD gave him twice as much as before! (11) Then all his brothers, sisters, and former friends came and feasted with him in his home. And they consoled him and comforted him because of all the trials the LORD had brought against him. And each of them brought him a gift of money and a gold ring. (12) So the LORD blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning. For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. (13) He also gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters. (14) He named his first daughter Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. (15) In all the land no women were as lovely as the daughters of Job. And their father put them into his will along with their brothers. (16) Job lived 140 years after that, living to see four generations of his children and grandchildren. (17) Then he died, an old man who had lived a long, full life.*

A strong believer will not only be patient with God, but he will also be patient with others. When we are patient, it sets a great example for others and encourages them to continue trusting God in the midst of difficult times.

2 Peter 3:8-9

*But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. (9) The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, **he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.***

Here James is talking about patiently waiting for the return of Christ. Jesus told us before He ascended back into heaven that He will come again for us. There will be a day when He blows the last trumpet and calls us to come up to heaven to be with Him. We call that the rapture, or the snatching away. We don't know when the rapture is going to

be. But some day, if we are still alive on this earth, He will come for us. He made that promise over 2,000 years ago. We know He always keeps His promises, so we must continue to wait patiently for Him.

**Ask:** Why has He waited so long to call us up to heaven? (Because He doesn't want anyone to miss the chance to live for all eternity with Him in heaven. God is patiently waiting for everyone—every man, woman and child—to repent of their sins and be saved.)

Here's a lesson for all of us to learn from this: we should be patient with others because God is patient with us.

James 5:19-20

*My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, (20) you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.*

Here's what James is telling us in these verses: It's hard to be patient with others, but it is worth the struggle because helping others turn away from sin saves them from living for all eternity in hell.

Having patience is hard work, but it is always worth it! It makes us strong Christ-followers.

**Ask:** What are the other qualities that we need to be strong Christians, besides patience? (Wisdom, faithfulness, kindness, and humility.)

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, give us patience, wisdom, faithfulness, kindness and humble hearts. Help us become stronger believers as we trust Your unique plan for each of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### GAME CENTER

#### *Pass the Chicken (or another stuffed animal)*

Sit with your students in a circle. One receives a question while a rubber chicken is passed around the circle. The student must answer the question correctly before the chicken comes back around to them.

Or, use the following questions in another game or discussion.

1. Can you think of a time it was hard to be patient? What happened?
2. What did James say might happen to us if we complain about God's plan or timing of His plan? (Vs 9 says we might be judged.)
3. What is it a farmer has to patiently wait for? (His crops to grow.)
4. Tell me about the prophet Job in your own words.
5. What was the result of Job's patience? (The LORD blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning.)
6. How can our patience be a great example to others?
7. Why should we patiently await Jesus' return?
8. Why has Jesus waited so long to call us up to heaven? (Because He doesn't want anyone to miss the chance to live for all eternity with Him in heaven. God is patiently waiting for everyone—every man, woman and child—to repent of their sins and be saved.)

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