

James

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JAMES

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 11 - *JAMES 5:7-20 - JULY 29-AUGUST 4*

LEADER NOTES

Throughout his letter, James consistently reminds his readers that trials, temptations, and persecutions are sure to come in the life of a believer. Yet, even in the face of such opposition, we should not fear because the return of the Lord will soon be here. This simple truth should encourage us and push us to endurance. As we wait for the coming of the Lord, we should do so in the community of God, praying faithfully for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please be sure to connect with individuals who have been suggested to your group from Getting to Know You. Remember that as Group Leaders, you are responsible for the discipleship of those in your group. Let's continue to go Deeper together.

Please continue to complete the Gospel Connection's and Conversations form. You can find the form [HERE](#).

You can find other sermons from our Teaching Pastor's [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY

OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT EVERYONE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

HOW DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK DIFFERENT AFTER STUDYING THE BOOK OF JAMES?

SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE POINT

CHRISTIANS WAIT PATIENTLY UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD.

James 5:7-20

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers,[a] until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.[b] 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), James 5:7-20.

STUDY NOTES

As James continues his message from the preceding passage (5:1-6), where Christians are being taken advantage of by the rich and haughty, he concludes his letter with the expectant hope of the impending Day of the Lord. To “wait patiently” implies believers are longing, ready for the return of the Lord. In the face of worldly opposition and trials in which James has already discussed, the return of the Lord isn’t something to dread, but a moment we should look forward to with eager anticipation and excitement.

Stand Firm

In the face of trials, temptations, worldly opposition, fights, and quarrels, believers must be ready to stand firm as we wait for the appearance of our Lord. James commands us to “Establish your hearts,” meaning we should cling to Jesus and the truths of our faith in light of opposition and tribulation. James warns against grumbling and complaining as a wrong response to such trials. Rather, we are to be long-suffering as we seek to wait for and obey King Jesus.

Seek Community

And while we are called to stand firm as we wait for our final vindication at the return of the Lord Jesus, we're not called to do so in isolation. We live in an individualistic and experiential culture. Truth is subjective to one's opinion and experience. Perhaps more than ever, the Church must be a people united not only in mind and deed, but also in prayer. As is consistent with the message of James, "truth" doesn't simply refer to right doctrine, but right doctrine combined with right action. Here, James instructs us to guard our brothers and sisters not only from wrong belief, but also to snatch our brothers and sisters back from sinful action.

Pray Faithfully

Finally, as we're called to stand firm against this world in the community of the local church, James instructs us to be faithful in prayer. While there is much that could be said on this passage of Scripture, what is clear is the necessity of both the church and believer to stand firm and pray fervently for the return of the Lord and fellow believers. James reminds us that those who have placed faith in the crucified and risen Jesus are now declared righteous by His blood, and it's the righteous man's prayer that has "great power as it is working." Thus, in so doing, we can not only withstand the fiery trials of this life, but we will be a people who patiently and faithfully wait for the return of the King as we seek to live a life of holiness in this world.

For more resources, click [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What stood out to you from this passage?*
- *Read v.8. What does this passage say is our hope in the midst of living in a lost and unjust world? Read v.9. What is the wrong way to wait for our vindication at the coming of the Lord?*
- *Why is community so essential in the Christian life? How do we see this played out in the passage?*
- *What does this passage tell us about prayer?*
- *Read v. 15. Do you think this guarantees bodily healing when we pray? (The word "save" in this passage refers to salvation, not physical healing.)*
- *Why do you think our prayers have "great power as it is working?"*
- *How and when does this passage prompt us to pray?*

COMMISSION

AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.

- ***THE COMING OF THE LORD IS NEAR. JAMES PROMPTS US TO LIVE A LIFE OF GODLINESS AS WE WAIT FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THE LORD. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF KING JESUS? WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO KNOW THE LIFE CHANGING MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL?***