



James: When God Doesn't Show Up

Pastor Derek Sanford

December 11, 2016

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read **James 5:7-12**. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Derek said in the sermon, "our instant gratification lives undermine our ability to be patient." What day-to-day things do you find yourself losing patience with?
3. James tells us to "establish your hearts" or gain strength for a long journey by regarding the coming of the Lord so we can hold up during difficult times. What things can we do to keep the coming of the Lord part of our thought process when we are going through tough times?
4. In light of the truth that we are not to "grumble against one another," what should we remember when we find ourselves grumbling against those who are not suffering in the way we are? With what should we replace our grumbling?
5. Read **Hebrews 11:35-38** and identify some of the Biblical individuals who suffered for their faith. Discuss how these people of faith demonstrated patience. God gives us these examples so we can be encouraged during our difficult times to follow them in faith.

Next Steps: When waiting for God to strengthen your heart, which of the five ways would group members identify as what they need the most to strengthen their hearts:

- Remember that Jesus will set things right (:8)
- Don't complain: (:9)
- Look to godly examples (:10-11)
- Remember God's purposes (11)
- Keep your word (:12)

Prayer: Have different members of the group look up the following passages and read them as a prayer of praise to God. **Psalm 86:15, Psalm 103:8, 13-14, Psalm 111:3-4, Psalm 116:5, Psalm 119:156, Psalm 145:8-9, Isaiah 49:13, Lamentations 3:22 and 2 Corinthians 1:3.**

Related Song: Consider reading the lyrics or playing part of the song, "Thy Will," by Hillary Scott & the Scott Family.

Memory Verse: **James 5:11** *"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."*