

5. Who is the Christian being compared to in verse 7? How is he different than a day laborer? Outside of his own labors, who must the farmer rely on for the ultimate harvest? Why is this analogy important in that culture (James 5:1-6)?

6. In addition to being patient, what is the second command James desires his readers to heed, and why did he give it (v. 8)?

7. What was promised to the disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9-11)?

8. Should the Lord tarry (linger before returning) as you experience trials, how does knowing and believing that Jesus is coming back help you yield to Him, and exercising patience and steadfastness? Why do we have every reason to be stable in the midst of our individual storms (See James 1:17; 1 Peter 1:23; Hebrews 10:37)?

9. In light of the circumstances, James knows the obvious temptation (v. 9) and gives an exhortation regarding it. What is it, and how does the virtue of patience put a restraint on that sin?

10. What reason might these believers have had to grumble and complain? When we grumble and complain against others, what are we essentially doing (James 4:11-12)? Who is well-equipped to handle the cries of injustice (v.9)?

11. Is there a situation right now about which you are tempted to grumble and complain against someone? Who is it? Look at James 1:17 and remind yourself who you're really grumbling and complaining against. As you read Romans 8:28-29, think about what God is really "up to" in your situation.

12. Why does every believer have the capacity to refrain from grumbling and complaining (Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Galatians 5:22-23)?

13. According to verse 10, why does James use Old Testament prophets as an example of patience? How can their example help you grow in patience, especially in circumstances in your home? (See James 5:6; 1 Kings 18:10, 17; Jeremiah 38:1-13).

14. Who does James count as blessed according to verse 11? To further drive home the point, who does he present as another example of patience? Why does he point to this particular individual (Job 42:12)? How is this story an encouragement to you (Job 1:21; 2:10; 16:9-21; 19:25-27)?

15. In the midst of Job's trials and difficult circumstances, what two things did he learn about God (verse 11)?

- God is _____.
- God is _____.

APPLICATION

Were these attributes of God only reserved for the patriarch Job? Read the following verses. What do you learn about God as you experience your own trial? How is remembering the Lord's character a comfort to you even when you struggle with patience and endurance? Look up the following verses that speak of God's compassion or mercy. How can you use these verses to encourage your children to have patience as well?

Psalm 103:8

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

1 Peter 1:3-7

Take the time right now to examine your heart. List areas in which you lack patience and steadfastness in your difficulties. Based on today's lesson, what do you need to remember the next time you are tempted to become impatient or when you lack endurance?