

Key Scriptures: James 5:7-11; 2 Peter 3:9-10; 1 John 2:18; Matthew 24:36-44

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever had to wait a very long time for something you really, *really* wanted?
- How long was the wait, and what were you waiting for?
- Was it worth it?!

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- The word “Patient” shows up again and again in this passage. (James 5:7-11) After reading it, how do you think James defines patience?
- Verse 10 says we need to have patience in the face of suffering... why did James have to say that to his audience 2000 years ago? Why does God have to remind us of that now?
- James speaks of how Job suffered well. Verse 11 says, “You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about...” What exactly did the Lord bring about in Job’s suffering?
- Verse 8 tells us to stand firm... how do we stand firm while being patient about Christ’s return?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Do you have the kind of patience that James was describing? Why or why not?
- How easily do you grumble while trying to be patient? Who do you grumble to? Yourself or others? As Christians, does our grumbling affect how others see God? How?
- When a farm plants a crop, they have to wait to harvest the crop. (Verse 7) But do they wait on their couch, or do they work? How does their work produce a more plentiful crop? What work can we do as the church to help produce a more plentiful harvest of people coming to salvation?
- If you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, would it change how you live today?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray God’s power to save would be evident to all those who do not yet know Him, and they would find Eternal life in Him. Just as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:5, “...so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.”

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Make a list of family, co-workers, and friends who need salvation, and pray for them by name this week.
- Be open to opportunities to demonstrate love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, so that they will see the fruit of the Spirit in your life.
- Be prepared to answer questions they have regarding God in your life... and their life! (There is a great example here: <https://www.mosaicgc.com/jesus/>)