



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
James 5: 7-12 | November 16, 2025  
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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week James really sets into his conclusion. As we have gone section by section through the book of James we can see how we are called to live out of faith, becoming a doer not just a hearer of the Word. As we near the end of the book, James is going to wrap everything together with a few final thoughts – this week we will be looking at his wisdom in patience during suffering.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Have you endured a season of suffering? Who was in your life then? How did they come beside you? What helped? What did not help? What did you learn about God's character through that time?

## III. Study the Text

*Begin by reading the text in full – James 5: 7-12. Re-Read James 5: 7-8*

- This passage begins simply with a command to be patient – why are Christians called to be patient?
- James uses the metaphor of a farmer waiting on the rain in order to have a harvest in comparison to us being patient through suffering. How are our postures similar as we wait on the Lord? What can we learn from the farmer's posture as we endure suffering?
- Go to BibleGateway.com and read through verse 8 through different translations (NIV, NLT, ESV, KJV, NASB). What does it mean to strengthen your heart?

*Read James 5: 9*

- Next, James turns his attention towards judgement towards others, especially when we are suffering. It seems that we are not the only generation that can become short and harsh with the people around us when we are found at our breaking point. Why do you think James is still focused on how our faith should transform the way other's experience us? What does that look like in practicality through suffering?



*Read James 5: 10-11*

- Next, James gives the people perspective by having them consider others in Scripture who have endured great suffering. What have you learned from the life of Job and how he endured suffering?
- How was God's purposes and character revealed in the book of Job?
- What is God's response to Job when he asks Him why He has allowed this to happen to him? (Read *Job 38-41*)

*Read James 5: 12*

- James transitions to then talk about oaths and swearing. While it may not be easy to see how this verse connects with the others in this section, James continues to draw attention to how our words and actions matter to God. Our words should be enough for people to believe us and trust that we will uphold our responsibility. How has this been evidenced in your life?

#### ***IV. Reflect and Respond***

- How has trusting in God and His purposes and plans steadied you in seasons of suffering?
- How can your posture shift to patient endurance from anxious fear?
- What are ways that you can point other's to the truth we find in Jesus as they endure seasons of suffering?

#### **V. Prayer**

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Begin by thanking God for carrying you through seasons of hardship and suffering. Spend a few minutes in silence asking God to bring up those seasons and take notice of what you learned about God through that time.
- Examine any and all places in your life that are ridden with suffering and ask God to give you perspective and a posture of surrender.
- Declare with trust that God is on His Throne and in His perfect timing will redeem all things but until that day, to help us become people with endurance.

