

2026-01-21 Small Group Guide

Small Group Discussion Guide: Patience, Transformation, and Walking with Christ

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to receive what God wants to reveal through this time together.

Icebreaker Question (10 minutes)

When was the last time you had to wait for something you really wanted?
How did you handle the waiting?

Key Scripture References

Job 21:1-7 - Job's complaint about impatience

Romans 5:1-11 - Justified by faith; suffering produces perseverance

Colossians 3:1-17 - Living as those made alive in Christ

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Honest Self-Examination (15 minutes)

The speaker asked: "Am I patiently waiting for the gifts that the Lord has promised, or am I just being the American that I am?"

When do you find yourself most impatient with God's timing?

What areas of your life reveal that you're setting your mind on earthly things rather than things above?

Job asked his friends to "bear with me while I speak" (Job 21:3).

Do you have someone in your life with whom you can be "gut-wrenchingly honest" about your struggles?

What makes vulnerability difficult for you?

Part 2: Understanding Who God Is (15 minutes)

The sermon emphasized Romans 5:8: "While we were still sinners, Christ

died for us."

Take a moment to really think about your "worst sin." How does it feel to know Christ died for you in that moment?

How does remembering this change your perspective on current struggles?

"God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The speaker said God "came down to get in my muck pile." What does this image mean to you personally?

How should this reality change the way we view others who are struggling?

Part 3: Transformation vs. Behavior Modification (15 minutes)

The sermon distinguished between "behavior modification" and "transformation through the Holy Spirit."

Can you identify an area where you've been trying to change through your own effort rather than through Christ?

What would it look like to surrender that area to the Holy Spirit?

Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

What practical steps can you take this week to "set your mind on things above"?

What earthly distractions most frequently pull your focus away from Christ?

Part 4: Forgiveness and Love (15 minutes)

The speaker shared about holding grievances and referenced the "scales" illustration.

Is there someone you need to forgive? What's keeping you from extending that forgiveness?

How does comparing our unforgiveness to God's complete forgiveness of us change your perspective?

"Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (Colossians 3:14).

The sermon defined love as "an action, not an emotion." What does this mean practically?

Share an example of when someone showed you love through action rather than just words.

Part 5: Active Faith (15 minutes)

The speaker confessed his reluctance to witness: "Ask them if they know me... You're kind of throwing me in the fire."

When has God prompted you to share your faith, and you hesitated? What held you back?

How can we support each other in being bolder witnesses?

"Do we trust the Father or do we not because we don't spend enough time with Him?"

How much time did you spend with God yesterday? This week?

What barriers prevent you from spending more time with Him?

Key Takeaways

Impatience reveals what we truly trust. When we're impatient with God, we're often trusting in our own plans rather than His sovereignty.

True transformation comes through the Holy Spirit, not our own efforts. We cannot modify our behavior into holiness—only Christ can transform us.

Forgiveness is non-negotiable. God's complete forgiveness of our massive debt requires us to forgive others' comparatively small offenses against us.

Community is essential. We need each other to stay accountable, encourage one another, and walk faithfully with Christ.

Our faith requires action. Retirement from God's work isn't biblical—we're called to continue serving until our last breath.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE to focus on

Option 1: Daily Prayer Commitment

Set three alarms on your phone throughout the day as reminders to pause and pray, even if just for 2-3 minutes.

Journal about what you notice about your connection with God by the end of the week.

Option 2: Forgiveness Exercise

Write down the name of someone you need to forgive.

Spend time in prayer asking God to help you see them as He sees them.

Take one concrete step toward reconciliation (if appropriate and safe).

Option 3: Boldness in Witness

Ask God to give you one opportunity this week to share your faith or pray with someone.

When the opportunity comes, say yes (even if you're scared).

Option 4: Scripture Meditation

Choose one verse from Colossians 3:1-17 to memorize.

Write it on a notecard and place it where you'll see it multiple times daily.

Ask yourself throughout the day: "Am I living this out right now?"

Accountability Partner Exercise (10 minutes)

Pair up with someone in your group:

Share which practical application you're committing to this week

Exchange contact information

Commit to checking in with each other mid-week and at the next group meeting

Closing Reflection

Read together Colossians 3:16-17: "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Have each person share one specific prayer request related to tonight's discussion. Close by praying for each person's request, asking God to help your group walk more faithfully with Him this week.

For Group Leaders

Preparation Tips:

Read through Job 21, Romans 5, and Colossians 3 before your meeting

Be prepared to share your own struggles with impatience and trust

Create a safe environment where people feel comfortable being vulnerable

Don't rush through questions—it's better to go deep on fewer questions than to superficially cover them all

Follow up with group members during the week, especially those who shared vulnerable things

Additional Resources:

Encourage members to listen to the full sermon if they haven't

Consider watching a short video on the historical context of Job or Paul's letters

Share testimonies from your own life about times when waiting on God proved faithful