

CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

James: Faith in Real Life – November 9, 2025

Big Idea: Patience in pain grows from trusting God's timing, walking with others, and believing there's purpose even when we can't see it.

Ice Breaker: What's something you've had to wait for that felt almost impossible to be patient through?

Key Points

Take a few minutes to review the key points from this week's sermon:

- Patience in pain is hard: Our natural reaction is to speed up what's slow and stop what hurts.
- There is a hope: Like a farmer waiting for rain, we can trust that what feels buried will grow — because Jesus is coming again to make everything right.
- There is a community: When life hurts, we need others. Patience in pain is not just about who you are — it's about who you are with.
- There is a purpose: Even when we don't see it, God is working through pain for His good and ours.
- There is compassion: The Lord is full of mercy — His heart toward us in suffering is kind and near.

Discussion Questions

Based on the sermon, discuss the questions below:

- What was your biggest takeaway from this message?
- Did anything in the message challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

Making It Personal

Reflect on the message with your group:

- What does it look like for you to “wait for rain” in your current season — to trust God when the outcome feels uncertain?
- When life feels heavy or slow, how do you typically respond — and what helps you stay patient?
- Who in your life helps you “not walk alone” when you're hurting? How can you do the same for someone else?
- When you don't see purpose in your pain, what truth about God helps you hold on?
- Where might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to exchange striving for trust — to rely on His timing, not your own?

Scripture Review

Revisit these passages and discuss:

- James 5:7–8 – What does the farmer's example teach us about faith in waiting?
- James 5:9 – Why does James connect patience with how we treat one another?
- James 5:10–11 – What can we learn from the perseverance of the prophets and Job?

Diving Deeper

Explore additional Scriptures that connect to this week's message:

- Old Testament: Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 27:14; Lamentations 3:25–26; Job 1:20–22
- New Testament: Romans 5:3–5; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 10:36; 1 Peter 5:10

Application & Action

James reminds us that patience isn't about sitting back—it's active trust in God. Our hope isn't in quick fixes but in the promise that Jesus is making all things new. As we stay connected to each other and rely on the Holy Spirit, we learn to endure with peace and compassion. This week, let's invite Jesus to grow in us a steady, grounded patience that reflects His presence in our everyday lives.

Revisit the Word

- Read James 5:7–11 aloud again. Before reading, pause and pray: “Lord, when life hurts and waiting feels too long, remind me that You are near, that I’m not alone, and that You’re working for good even when I can’t see it.”

Personal Reflection

- Take 2–3 minutes in silence: “What is one area of my life where I am waiting, hurting, or feeling frustrated right now? How can I invite Jesus to meet me in this moment? What would it look like to rest in His presence and trust His timing?” Write down your thoughts and any small ways you sense you could lean into Him this week.

Group Discussion: Patience in Pain

- **Listening to Jesus:** What is Jesus teaching you about patience in this season? How might He be inviting you to trust His timing, even when you can’t yet see the outcome — and notice that He is present with you in the waiting?
- **Walking with Him:** When pain, frustration, or waiting feels heavy, how does it change your perspective to remember that Jesus walks with you right now — not only in the future promise, but in the moment of your struggle? How can His presence reshape how you face what’s hard today?
- **Anchoring in His Word:** Which verse reminds you that endurance grows from trusting God’s promises and His nearness, not your own strength (e.g., James 5:7–8; Romans 5:3–5; Galatians 6:9)? How can that truth steady you this week and help you sense His presence in your current circumstances?
- **Leaning on His People:** Who has modeled patience, hope, and the experience of Jesus’ presence for you in a difficult season? How can you be that kind of encouragement for someone else who’s still waiting or hurting?
- **Growing in His Likeness:** How have you seen the Holy Spirit cultivate patience, gentleness, or trust in you over time — showing that Jesus is at work in you even in the pain? How might this strengthen your confidence that He is with you now, not only in the future?
- **Action Step:** Finish this sentence: “This week, when I start to feel impatient or discouraged, I’ll pause and ask Jesus to help me _____, trusting that He is present with me here and now, even in the waiting.”

Prayer

Close your group time with prayer, asking Jesus to meet each person in their waiting, bring comfort in their pain, and cultivate endurance, trust, and faith in His presence right here and now.

Daily 2-Minute Practice: Jesus With Me While I Wait

- **Pause (30 sec):** Notice one area of your life where you feel like the “farmer waiting for rain” — a place of waiting, pain, or uncertainty. Name it honestly before Jesus.

- **Breathe & Notice (1 min):** Ask the Holy Spirit to make Jesus' presence real in this moment. Picture handing the situation over to His care, feeling His comfort and strength with you, and receiving patience and peace instead of frustration.
- **Trust & Respond (30 sec):** Say quietly, "Lord, You are full of compassion and mercy. Help me trust that You are working — even while I wait — and meet me here in this moment." Let this awareness guide your words, actions, and attitude today.