

“What to Do in the Waiting Room”

Sermon Discussion Questions on James 5:7-12

Note: *To give & receive the greatest benefit from this discussion, please review your own sermon notes, read & reflect on these discussion questions in advance.*

1. Share with the group something you’re waiting for right now i.e. end of pandemic, project to be completed, house to sell, recovery after illness/injury, retirement etc.
 - * How might your life be better or different when that happens?
2. Someone read **James 5:7-8**.
 - a. Why does farming require patience?
 - * How might an impatient farmer damage or diminish the crops?
 - * What do good farmers do while they’re waiting for harvest?
 - b. How might impatience while you’re waiting for something (see #1 above), affect your personal well-being, relationships, career or ministry?
 - * What are some constructive things you might do while you’re waiting?
 - c. In what ways might the anticipation of Jesus’ soon & sudden return change your attitude & perspective about the things for which you’re waiting?
3. Someone read **James 5:9**.
 - a. What actions or attitudes are especially annoying in people and/or situations around you right now?
 - * What connection can you see between impatience and grumbling?
 - * How might the thought of Jesus soon & sudden return affect your attitudes & treatment of people or situations that are so annoying?
 - b. Someone read **Hebrews 10:24-25**.
 - * What are some productive ways of dealing with others while waiting for them to change?
4. Someone read **James 5:10-11**.
 - a. What do you know about *Jeremiah*, aka the “weeping prophet?”
 - * Someone Google him and share a few basic facts.
 - * Who do you know that has suffered significantly in life but developed a strong Christian testimony?
 - b. What do you know about *Job*?
 - * Assign people to read these excerpts from his book: **Job 1:20-22, 10:18-22, 23:10, 42:10-12**.
 - * Through all the suffering, loss and argument with friends, what is one thing Job learned about God? What did you learn about Him?
5. Someone read **James 5:12**.
 - a. How would you describe the kind of language to which you’ve been exposed i.e. in the home, military, college etc?
 - b. How do expletives, vulgarity & profanity affect our responses to trials, testimony to the world and relationship with God?