

Patience in Painful Times (1/7/24)

Main Verses: James 5:7-11

Key Verses: James 5:8

'Takeaway': Though we want hard times to end as soon as possible, God calls us to patiently trust that he knows & cares about our hurts.



Getting Started: Have you ever had a hard time that you thought was never going to end?

READ: James 5:7-11 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What is waiting for the coming of the Lord compared to?
- How are we supposed to wait for his coming?
- Why can we remain steadfast when things are hard?

Elementary:

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- How are we supposed to wait for his coming?
- Why can we remain steadfast when things are hard?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- The author compares waiting for the coming of the Lord to a farmer waiting for his crops to be ready.
- We are to be patient & set (establish) our hearts on God as we wait.
- We should not grumble against one another as we wait.
- We can remain steadfast when things are hard because God knows & cares about our hurts

Elementary

- The author compares waiting for the coming of the Lord to a farmer waiting for his crops to be ready. The farmer cannot see what is happening, but trusts God for the outcome.
- We are to be patient & set (establish) our hearts on God as we wait.
- We also set our hearts on Christ, & hope for his return. Knowing we will see him face to face one day, & knowing that we will then enjoy the promises he died to make possible, should bring us comfort & strength as we wait.
- We should not grumble against one another as we wait.
- We can remain steadfast when things are hard because God knows & cares about our hurts and hardships. And we can remain steadfast because of God's great gift of Jesus, his Son, who knew every hardship & hurt we will ever know, & who made it possible for us to know & live for God forever.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him that he knows & cares about our hurts & hardships. Talk to him about the things that hurt you or confuse you; ask him to help you grow in him thru them. Ask God to help you remember that Jesus is coming again one day & will make all things right; ask him to help you to live in light of his promises.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him that he knows & cares about our hurts & hardships. Thank him that thru faith in Jesus, we can remain steadfast in our faith. Ask God to help you keep "in view" that Jesus is coming again, & that we will see him face to face. Thank God for his faithfulness, & for always keeping his promises. Ask God to help you remember Jesus & draw comfort & strength from him when you go thru hurts & hardship.