

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Patience, Not Grumbling**OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 5:1-6**

Main Idea: Riches will fade and those who live by and trust in them will be judged.

1. Read James 5:1-6.
2. How does this passage connect to what we previously read in James 4:1-17?
3. James writes, “Come now, you rich...” Who are the rich people James is talking about?
4. James tells them to “weep and howl.” What does this mean and why does James tell them to do this?
5. What does James say our material possessions will come to? What will this reveal on judgement day?
6. Is it merely the fact that we have comfort/material possessions/luxury that is bad? What makes them bad?
7. What does verse 4 reveal about God’s character?
8. How do verses 4-5 connect to what James discusses in 3:13-18 regarding “self?” What is the fundamental issue with our interactions with people and/or things?
9. Verse 5 says, “you have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.” Is luxury inherently bad? What does James mean they have lived in self-indulgence?
10. Verse 5 says, “you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.” What does this mean? What is the implication?
11. What is the encouragement for the “righteous person?” Where is our true identity from (2:5)?
12. Skipping ahead to next week, what does verse 7 encourage us to do instead of live on earth in luxury and self-indulgence?
13. According to Matthew 6:19-34, where should we lay up treasure in the last days and why are we able to do so (vs. storing up earthly treasures)?
14. How does the gospel compel us to live in sacrificial service not self-indulgence?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 5:7-11

Main Idea: The Lord is coming, be patient for his return no matter what you encounter until he does.

1. Read James 5:7-11.
2. How does this passage connect to what we previously read in James 5:1-6 and in the rest of James as a whole?
3. What are we supposed to wait for? What will the coming of the Lord bring?
4. Notice the “therefore” in verse 7. What’s the “therefore” there for?
5. The early “rains occurred just after planting and the [late] rains come just before harvest.” How does this analogy picture patience in suffering (cf. Phil 1:6)?
6. What does it mean to “establish your hearts”? Why should we do it? How should we do it?
7. What does James seem to use as the motivating factor for every command in the passage? How does this encourage us?
8. What does James mean when he says to “not grumble against one another, brothers?” What might be a heart position he is seeking to address?
9. What two examples does James give us of suffering and patience? Who are the truly blessed ones: those who have encountered no trials or those who have remained steadfast?
10. We know that Job *did* sometimes grumble and complain in his circumstances. Why might he be recommended as an example of patience to us?

11. What should we view our afflictions in light of? What will be the outcome of our afflictions?
12. What might "*the* purpose of the Lord" be?
13. What does this passage tell us about the character of the Lord?
14. How does the Gospel compel us to suffer with patience, not grumbling?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How are you doing? How's your love for Jesus? Follow up from previous weeks.