

# LIFE GROUP SERMON GUIDE

For the week of: March 18-24 (WEEK 9)

## THE ACCEPTABLE SINS OF CHRISTIANS

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### "IMPATIENCE"

James 5:7-11

#### **PATIENCE—A DEFINITION:**

THE CAPACITY TO **ACCEPT** AND/OR **TOLERATE** DELAY, TROUBLE, AND SUFFERING, WITHOUT GETTING ANGRY OR UPSET.

- "PATIENT" = "**SUFFERING**"

WHAT DRIVES OUR IMPATIENCE?

#1

#2

#3

#### **KEY PRINCIPLE**

IMPATIENCE IS TO **ASSUME** GOD SHOULD **EXPLAIN** HIMSELF TO **ME**.

#### **KEY CONCEPT**

IT IS THE MARK OF CHRISTIAN **MATURITY** TO MASTER THE ART OF "**WAITING FOR THE LORD.**"

#### **PATIENCE AND THE GOSPEL:**

4 EPISODES IN WHICH JESUS TAUGHT US THE MEANING OF "WAITING FOR THE LORD":

- 1) JOHN 2
  - 2) MARK 5
  - 3) JOHN 11
  - 4) PARABLES OF THE VINEYARD
- OLD TESTAMENT ENCOURAGEMENT TO "WAIT FOR THE LORD":  
*CF. PS. 27, 31, 37, 130, IS. 8:17, 40:31*  
~A CLOSER LOOK AT PSALM 33~
  - JAMES 5:7-11
    - VERSE 7- BE **PATIENT**
    - VERSE 8- ESTABLISH YOUR **HEART**
    - VERSE 9- DO NOT GRUMBLE **AGAINST** ONE ANOTHER
    - VERSE 10- **REMEMBER** THE PROPHETS
    - VERSE 11- REMAIN **STEADFAST**



## LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK

For the week of: March 18-24 (WEEK 9)

### QUICK REVIEW:

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on "Impatience," was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### GOD'S STORY/ OUR STORY "SPECIAL":

*Read Romans 6:1-11*

[Note: It is the last week of Life Groups. Take some time to thank God for what he has done in your group over the course of this semester.]

- 1) Share one or two things you are especially grateful to God for.
- 2) Share one or two things you are especially grateful to your group for.
- 3) Share something you've learned this semester you don't want to forget.

### MY STORY:

1. Dream a bit: What are some of your hope and dreams for the year 2018? What are you looking forward to? What are you anxious about? **Listen for the excitement or lack of excitement in the answers shared. As believers we are "hope dealers". If we do have hope for our own lives how can we pass it along to a depressed, unsatisfied, addicted, and hopeless world?**

2. How does your impatience manifest itself: Anger? Annoyance? Sarcasm? Judgment? Discontentment? What's the underlying reason for your impatience:

- Pride?
- Control?
- Comfort?
- Fear?
- Selfishness?
- Distrust?

**Some people may not have considered their patience connected to their emotions in these ways. Assure your group that these attributes are the "natural" states of our being. We have been given the power to step out of the natural and into the power given to us through the Holy Spirit.**

3. In the Bible, perseverance is often mentioned in the same verse as patience. Why do these two traits go hand in hand? What is the difference between them? Read: Matthew 24:13, Romans 5:3-4, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:23, 10:36, James 1:2-4. **Too many people stop too short of what God has shown them to do. When have you or someone you know settled for less than God's best for your life in the areas of education, occupation, marriage, parenting, etc.?**

### DIGGING DEEPER:

1. The Bible also frequently mentions a promise along with patience and perseverance. What are these promises? Psalm 37:7-9, 37:34, 40:1-3, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 6:12, 10:36, James 5:7-8. **Trusting in Christ to assist you is the key to overcoming!**

2. In what ways right now is your confidence in God and His Word, even though your current circumstance, position, or understanding may not appear to match up? **Things like sickness, a rebellious child, a financial slump are some example of things people are experiencing for a season. Be willing to be transparent about your situation right now that is requiring you to believe with God beyond the current state of your situation. Share your favorite scriptures.**

### ADDITIONAL SELF-STUDY (Optional):

1. What are some ways that you can persevere in your own trials?  
**Share how the word of God assists you.**

2. Who do you know to whom God is showing patience as He waits for them to come to Him?



### TAKING IT HOME:

Ask God to allow you to see through the eyes of your spirit what He believes about your situation and meditate on scriptures that will help you stand firm in what God has shown you. Consider sharing with your group the picture that is in you! Thank God for His mercy through Jesus and His patience in every situation.

#### LIFE GROUP TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group, but it can also be intimidating. We find that group prayer goes better when we follow four simple guidelines:

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME**—Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE**—Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during prayer for topics they feel most led to pray about.

**NO ONE IS REQUIRED TO PRAY**—There is no expectation that you personally pray out loud in groups if you'd rather not.

**KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE**—Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for members to stay focused and it tends to intimidate those who may just be learning to pray out loud in a group setting. Remember, no one is required to pray.

#### SOCIALS

Grab your group for an enjoyable evening. The entire family is invited. If you are still thinking about what to do for your 'Social' event, go to [www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups](http://www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups).

#### SERVICE

Be sure to start thinking about what service project you and your friends want to get involved in! Go to [www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups](http://www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups) for more information.