



AWAKEN TO PATIENCE

May 23 | Discussion Guide

(~90 minutes needed)

Begin with Scripture, silence + prayer (5-10 minutes)

Read all of Psalm 33 to begin your time together. *This week's topic is "Awaken to Patience" so the purpose of this reading is to find solidarity in the Psalmist's desire for patience despite whatever life circumstances we might find ourselves in.*

After you finish reading the verse, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation and your words will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

Recap from last week's devotions and intro question (5-10 minutes)

Spend some time talking about what resonated with you from your devotions this past week. Once finished, have each person share a time in the last week or two when they were impatient. What happened? What was going on inside of you when you were impatient? What caused the impatience?

Split into smaller co-ed groups for Scripture and a practice (20 minutes). *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

- **Read James 5:7-12.**
- As a smaller group, come up with a paraphrase for these verses. In other words, put **James 5:7-12** into your own words. Try rephrasing each verse and putting them into modern vernacular. You might utilize different translations to help you along. Talk about which modern words you think best make sense of the passage. Then, be ready to share your paraphrase and how you came up with what you wrote with your larger group.

Transition back to one large group for recap + discussion of the sermon (40 minutes)

- Have each smaller group share their paraphrase of **James 5:7-12**. Then, have them also share how they came up with their paraphrase. Why did they say what they said in such a way?

- As you think back to Dan's sermon on patience, he talked about having patience amidst circumstances, patience with people, and patience in suffering. Which of these three are you most patient in? Which of these are you least patient in? Explain.
- How was patience exemplified (or not) in your family growing up?
- What have been some of the most formative events in your life that have helped make you into a more patient person?
- What sorts of things do you have *very* little patience for?
- In Dan's sermon, he gave a couple formulae. He said that MY WAY + MY TIMING = REGRET. He also said that GOD'S WAY + MY TIMING = DISILLUSIONMENT. But then he said, GOD'S WAY + GOD'S TIMING = BLESSING. How have you seen these to be true in your own life?
- How do you discern when to be patient towards a circumstance or a person and when you should act?
- How can you practice patience towards your spouse, your kids, your significant other, a friend, or towards your life group this week?

Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (20 minutes) *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- In **James 5:7-12**, James exhorts us to be patient. How has your impatience/hurry/hustle led you into sin or how has it almost led you into sin this past week?
- How can this group support you in living patiently?
- What has prayer time been like for you this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?

Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.