

**Intro:** What is the most difficult thing you have ever had to wait for? Did you show patience?

**Read James 5:7-12**

1) Review this week's sermon. What were the main points? What stood out to you?

2) Name some of the things in this world that are most glaringly "not as they should be." Which of these causes the most pain for you?

3) Are there any things in life that keep coming up that seem to cause you real pain? How does your frustration come out? Is it directed at an idea, organization, yourself, God or other people?

4) How do you think someone can "get" or "learn" patience?

5) What things are you impatient about in your life this week? What will you do about it?

6) **Look at Exodus 16:1-3.** Why are we so quick to grumble against one another? Have you ever seen grumbling with other people do any good? Who are usually the first people we grumble against?

7) How did the prophets handle complaining? Why is God usually the last one that we will complain to?

8) According to the sermon, what is actually being said when someone swears by God's name? When are you most likely to "swear?"

9) How can this growth group be a place that helps us deal with pain while keeping what is most important in perspective?

**Prayer:** Pray for patience. Pray that God gives you patience not just "in all things" but "with all people." Pray that your patience with others will come from your deep love for Jesus and them.

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**THE STAGES OF SUFFERING**

**James 5:7-12**

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