



# JAMES 5:7-20

## Patience, Prayer, and Care

---

### **BEGIN BY READING JAMES 5:7-20 TOGETHER:**

**7** Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. **9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**12** But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

**13** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

**19** My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, **20** let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

**NOTE:** After you read the passage together, pray, and then allow for a few minutes of silence so that you and your students can read over the passage again and start to think about it. This may feel awkward at first, but it's vital to allow for some reflection time before diving into the questions.

When you're ready, begin the discussion by going through the following questions:

## CONTEXT QUESTIONS

### 1. How does this closing section carry on themes that James started earlier in the book?

**NOTE:** Look back through the book of James to see how he is carrying on themes like suffering, prayer, and putting your faith into practice.

## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

**NOTE:** As you go through these questions, give your students time and silence to really look at the text to see what God is revealing to them personally. Be patient with them as they seek to flesh out what they are seeing in God's Word.

### 1. What does this passage call you to believe?

### 2. What does this passage call you to do?

## RESPONSE QUESTIONS

**NOTE:** In this passage James ends his letter with encouragement for believers to stay patient in the midst of suffering and to pray in faith for their needs. Carried throughout these verses is also a theme of believers caring for one another in the midst of suffering through the way they pray for, forgive, confess to, and speak truth to one another.

1. **What does this passage say about Patience?**
2. **What does this passage say about Prayer?**
3. **What does this passage say about Caring for one another?**

## **CHRIST CONNECTION**

**NOTE:** *As we think about patience, prayer, and care, particularly in the midst of suffering, it's important to see how Christ is the one who makes all of this possible. We can be steadfast in our suffering when we remember how Christ willingly suffered for us on the cross. We can pray with faith when we remember how Christ Himself is interceding, or praying, for us before the throne of His Father. When we pray we have access to God not on the basis of what we deserve, but on the basis of the forgiveness and righteousness we have in Christ. When we care for one another we do so giving out the care we have already received in Christ. The truth we speak to one another, the joy we share together, the works we partner in, are all centered on Christ, made possible by Christ, and done to glorify Christ.*