



Week Ten: James 5:7-12

“Patience in Suffering”

Reading and Study Guide for the week
of Nov. 12-19, 2023

Memory Verse for the Book of James: *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)*

This week, read James 5:7-12. Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

1. What kinds of experiences try your patience?
2. What do we need to do as we wait for the Lord’s return to earth? ([5:7](#))
3. When will the Lord’s coming occur? ([5:8](#))
4. Why should we be patient about Christ’s return? ([5:8](#))
5. Why should we avoid judging others or grumbling against them? ([5:9](#))
6. What will happen to Christians who grumble against their fellow believers? ([5:9](#))
7. What people serve as good examples to us? How? ([5:10-11](#))
8. In what ways does God help us when we must endure suffering? ([5:11](#))
9. What is the alternative to swearing? ([5:12](#))
10. How does God use others to build patience in our lives?
11. For what kinds of reasons do Christians judge each other?
12. What steps will you take this week to avoid judging others in your home? workplace? church?

Life Application Bible Notes

[5:7, 8](#) The farmer must wait patiently for his crops to grow; he cannot hurry the process. But he does not take the summer off and hope that all goes well in the fields. There is much work to do to ensure a good harvest. In the same way, we must wait patiently for Christ's return. We cannot make him come back any sooner. But while we wait, there is much work that we can do to advance God's Kingdom. Both the farmer and the Christian must live by faith, looking toward the future reward for their labors. Don't live as if Christ will never come. Work faithfully to build his Kingdom. The King *will* come when the time is right.

[5:9](#) When things go wrong, we tend to grumble against and blame others for our miseries (see the second note on [Genesis 3:11-13](#)). Blaming others is easier than owning our share of the responsibility, but it can be both destructive and sinful. Before you judge others for their shortcomings, remember that Christ the Judge will come to evaluate each of us ([Matthew 7:1-5](#); [25:31-46](#)). He will not let us get away with shifting the blame to others.

5:10, 11 Many prophets suffered and were persecuted, such as Moses, Elijah, and Jeremiah. For a complete list of those persecuted, see the chart in [2 Chronicles 18, pp. 690-691](#). For more on the topic of suffering, see the notes on [Job 1:1ff](#); [2:10](#); [3:23-26](#); [4:7, 8](#); [42:17](#); and Job's Profile in [Job 3, p. 789](#).

5:12 A person with a reputation for exaggeration or lying often can't get anyone to believe him on his word alone. Christians should never become like that. Always be honest so that others will believe your simple yes or no. By avoiding lies, half-truths, and omissions of the truth, you will become known as a trustworthy person.

James Study Guide questions and notes are from

