

Life Group Discussion Guide

The Book of James - January 31

LEADER NOTES

Pastor Aaron Walton closed our series in the Book of James this week by discussing patience and prayer. What do we do when it seems like God isn't answering our prayers?

Remember to check out the videos from our teaching team each week at alcpnw.com/life-group-notes. These videos include extra content from each week's teacher and a great prompt for your group discussion.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

James 5:7-18 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. ⁸You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹*Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!*

¹⁰*For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.*

¹²*But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.*

¹³*Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. ¹⁴Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.*

¹⁶*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. ¹⁷Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no*

rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

LOOK UP

How have you navigated the tension that unanswered prayers leave us with in light of the encouragement of James 5?

LOOK AROUND

What does your current prayer life look like? Is it a challenge for you to pray? If so, why?

Has there been a definitive moment in your life that you believe God answered your prayers?

What are some of the unanswered prayers you have experienced in your life?

LOOK AHEAD

Do you have room in your theology for miracles of healing?

PRAYER