

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free **Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- How patient are you? What is something that you are waiting for right now? Can you think of some examples of times when you've had a hard time waiting without complaining?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Colton reminded us of four important characteristics of those who wait patiently for Christ's return.**

If We Are To Be Patient At His Coming:

1. **We must admit and believe that Christ's return is the *only certain* future (James 5:7-8)**
 - What are some things that people generally view as "certainties" in life? Is there anything in your life right now that you view as a virtual guarantee?
 - Colton told the story of Florence Chadwick, the long-distance swimmer who tried to swim from Catalina to the California mainland, but came up a half-mile short of the Golden Coast. Be honest, how often do you find yourself thinking about heaven, the eternal "Golden Coast"?
 - When you think of eternity, are you encouraged or anxious? Why is that?
2. **We must accept that suffering *detaches us from the world and attaches us to Christ* (James 5:8)**
 - Commentator David Nystrom said, "Our destiny is to be with Christ, but it is often in the crucible of difficulty that God prepares us for that day." What experiences in your life have placed you in the "crucible of difficulty"? Compare this passage with others in James and talk about how God uses trials and suffering in the life of the Christ-follower.
3. **We must do so *together* (James 5:9; 3:14-16)**
 - Those who wait for Christ love His people. As a group, explain the connection between practicing the "one anothers" in Scripture, and waiting patiently for Jesus to return.
 - Is there another Christian that you need to be reconciled to? How will you do that this week?
4. **We must focus on the *promises of God, not the product of our work for Him* (James 5:10-11)**
 - Colton talked about the Old Testament characters, Jeremiah and Job, as examples of people who had an eternal focus during earthly suffering. What are some of the promises of God that you might rely on during tough times that may help you have an eternal view? Brainstorm as a group.

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that God will cause you to wait patiently for Christ's return in unity with other Believers.

