**“PATIENCE IN SUFFERING”**

 **James 5:7-12**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Idea of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What was the most impactful part of the Sermon for you?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. How does God use others to build patience in our lives?
2. What makes it hard to wait on God’s timing?
3. How can you tell if a person is telling the truth or making a promise that he she will keep?

**James 5:7–12 (NLT)**

7Dear 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.

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

10For 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.

12But 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.

***EXPLORE***

1. What do we need to do as we wait for the Lord’s return to earth? (5:7)
2. When will the Lord’s coming occur? (5:8)
3. Why should we avoid judging others or grumbling against them? (5:9)
4. What people serve as good examples to us? How? (5:10–11)
5. In what ways does God help us when we must endure suffering? (5:11)
6. What warning did James give concerning swearing? (5:12)

***APPLY***

1. What blessing or reward came to you for suffering as a Christian?
2. What does God think about Christians fighting among themselves?
3. What steps will you take this week to avoid judging others in your home? workplace? church?
4. Is the patience James calls for different from inactivity? Explain.
5. Why is faith in God’s character so crucial in our suffering? How is Job a model in this regard?