

review it *(Revisit the weekly rituals and follow-up on the last gathering)*

- Look over the last session's Action Step Journal and ask how it went. Share as honestly as you can. It's not meant to cause shame or guilt, rather, a community of care.
- Try to recite last week's memory verse.
- Try to recite the series memory verse, James 1:22.

hear it *(Slow down and hear the Word)*

Read James 5:7-12 aloud (twice if possible, using two different translations).

- ASK: What word, phrase, or image stands out to you and why?
- ASK: What does this passage teach about God?
- ASK: What does this passage teach about humanity?

check the mirror *(Help the group examine themselves honestly by asking questions)*

- **starting easy:**
 - What's the longest you've ever waited for something you really wanted—it could be food, an Amazon package, test results, a decision?
 - What did the waiting do to you?
- **a look at the book:**
 - James isn't teaching "passive waiting." He's calling God's people to active patience until the Lord's coming, showing steady faithfulness in the middle of pressure, delay, and suffering.

wisdom in action *(Apply wisdom principles to life situations.)*

- We separate these verses into sections by action or actor:

- **Farmers | Work hard, trust God, don't give up**
 - In vv. 7-8, what parts of the farmer image feel most challenging for you right now... working faithfully, trusting what you can't control, or staying the course?
 - Where do you feel tempted to "dig up the seed" too early because you're tired of waiting?
 - James says, "establish your hearts" because "the Lord's coming is near" (v. 8). What does it look like, practically, to set your heart when your circumstances won't cooperate?

- **Prophets | Patience in suffering, obedience measured by obedience**
 - James 5:10 points to the prophets as an example "in the face of suffering." Has obedience cost you something?
 - If so, what, and how?
 - The sermon said we measure obedience by obedience, not by cultural approval or life improving. Where do you catch yourself grading God's faithfulness by your comfort?
 - If your life right now feels like "stocks," "prison," or "mud," what would it sound like to bring that honestly to God without walking away from God?

- **Job | Discouraged or angry, but don't sin**
 - In James 5:11, Job is "persevering," not "pretending." Where are you tempted to hide your discouragement instead of bringing it into the light with God and trusted people?
 - What's the difference (in your own words) between being honest with God in pain and accusing God as if He's your enemy?
 - James says the Lord is "full of compassion and mercy" (5:11). Where is it hardest for you to believe that's true in your current waiting?

- **Integrity | Simple yes/no; don't let waiting make you messy**
 - James 5:12 lands on speech and integrity. Why do you think James ends a "waiting" section by talking about our words and our yeses nos?
 - When you're under stress, what kind of speech are you most prone to, things like exaggeration, venting, subtle threats, people-pleasing promises, or spiritual-sounding manipulation?
 - What does that reveal about what you're trying to control?
 - How would patient integrity be a witness in a "want now" culture?
Look at different domains: home, work, online, relationships, etc.

put it to work *(Move from talk to action)*

This week's practice: **wait**.

Waiting isn't wasted when God is using it to establish your heart, deepen your trust, and make you the kind of person who can handle the harvest when it comes.

- Where do you most need the Spirit to help you "stand firm" this week?
Things like your schedule, your wallet, your relationships, your obedience, or your words...

weekly rituals *(Do these in whatever order—be sure to move through them)*

- Weekly Memory Verse:
*"You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."
James 5:8*

Action Step Journal: *Be sure to take some notes here.*

- Series memory verse:
"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22

pray

Lord, establish our hearts while we wait.

Make us faithful in the work, honest with our pain, and ever steady in our integrity until You come again.