

## Response to Suffering

Week 5 | James 5:7-20

James is a letter to the scattered church, encouraging them to live out their faith in unity in the midst of uncertainty for the **glory** of God.

Gospel Communities are a place where the context of family is cultivated and the content of the gospel is nurtured for the sake of spiritual growth and multiplication.

These communities are designed to foster a family-like environment through the means of eating together, praying for each other, and sharing our lives with one another.

At the same time, Gospel Communities are purposefully centered on the gospel, as it is the gospel that provides all measures of growth. Therefore, as you read the passage of Scripture, be sure to note how this text connects with the rest of the Bible and points to the good news of Jesus Christ.

### BEFORE YOU START

Pray for God to illuminate his word, guide the conversation, and stir our souls.

Would you consider yourself a patient person? When is patience especially difficult for you?

Have someone read **James 5:7-20**.



How does James call us to live as we patiently wait for Christ's return? What does he call us to do in light of the suffering we face in the waiting?



James closes his letter by exhorting the church to pray over each other and confess their sins. Why are these things so important to a community?



Is there any way that this community can pray over you? Are there any sins that you've been hiding that you need to confess?



How often do you look forward to the return of Christ? What would it mean for you to live in light of that this week? How will this influence how you spend your time and what conversations you have?

### BEFORE YOU'RE SENT

What is God teaching you? What are you going to do about it? How can we help?

How can we pray for you? For your neighbors?