

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – Trail Markers Week #4

Patience / May 2, 2021 / Pastor Paul Taylor



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions | This week's fruit of the Spirit is patience. What's something you've waited on and seen come to pass that brought you great joy? What's something you're currently waiting on?
2. Without the Holy Spirit's help, many of us have a tendency to act impatiently. Can you relate? If so, how does your impatience usually manifest itself: Anger? Annoyance? Sarcasm? Judgment? Discontentment?

What situations or particular relationships tend to bring out your impatience?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Pastor Paul shared that we grow in patience by understanding and valuing God's patience with us. After reading the Scripture passages below, discuss the corresponding questions with your group members.

Exodus 34:6 (NLT) – The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

1 Timothy 1:16 (NLT) – But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

Colossians 3:8-10, 12 (NLT) – ⁸But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him... ¹²Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

- a) Reflect on your spiritual journey of believing in Jesus for the first time or recommitting your life to follow Him. How was God patient with you as He brought you to trust in Him (John 6:44)?
- b) Growing in Christlikeness and maturing in the fruit of the Holy Spirit is a lifelong process. How have you experienced God's patience as you've attempted and even struggled to “strip off your old sinful nature” and “put on your new nature [in Christ]?”

4. A significant portion of the Bible's teaching on the fruit of patience addresses our relationships with one another. Three passages that reflect this are Ephesians 4:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, and Proverbs 14:29. Read those together and then discuss the corresponding questions.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT) – ¹Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ²Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NLT) – Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

Proverbs 14:29 (NIV) – Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

- a) According to these passages, how is patience lived out with others?
- b) If you struggle to exercise patience with others, what do you believe is the deepest underlying reason for your impatience: Pride? Control? Comfort? Fear? Selfishness? Distrust?

TAKING IT HOME

5. David Mathis remarked that “No significant long-term fruitfulness in this fallen world comes without obstacles and resistance. To serve others in a meaningful way will mean to encounter friction soon enough. Patience, then, is the virtue of soul that helps us persevere in doing good, and not be scared off from worthy causes by opposition, toil, and fatigue.”¹

¹<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/god-works-in-those-who-wait>

Explaining the parable of sower, Jesus said “the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.” (Luke 8:15)

- a) Is there an area of your life where you're doing good, obeying God's commands, and following Him, but nevertheless feeling worn out and depleted? Perhaps you're facing resistance and questioning whether what you're doing is truly what God has planned for you. If that's you, share about those circumstances with your group. How can they encourage and support you?
- b) Waiting on God's timing is often easier said than done. How can a season of waiting become a catalyst for growing closer to God? If you have a personal testimony related to this, share it!

James 5:7-8 (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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. 2021 Men's Conference | There is a desire in all men to be better and do more, but an extraordinary life isn't found sitting on the sidelines. Men, hang out with us on Saturday June 12th at Men's Conference for a day of spiritual renewal, motivating messages from Mark Driscoll and yes, some manly fun. Lunch and dinner are provided with your ticket purchase. To learn more and purchase a ticket, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-mens-conference-tickets-143828790785?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.
2. When Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary (WOBE) | We're having a night of worship and prophetic ministry on Sunday, May 2nd at 6:30pm at our Mason Campus. As we gather to exalt the name of Jesus Christ, you will encounter the power of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life. Come expectantly, come ready to see God move, and come to seek the extraordinary life.
3. Baptisms – Sunday May 16th | We believe baptism is an integral part of your spiritual journey and necessary as you seek to become a fully engaged follower of Christ. If you've recently decided to follow Jesus or you've been a Christ follower for a while, now is the perfect time to take the next step and get baptized. Learn more and sign up at <https://riverscrossing.com/baptism/>.