



MAIN POINT	MAIN BIBLE VERSE
When life feels slow, God is still working.	James 5:7-12
Students will learn that waiting is not wasted when we trust God. James reminds us to keep being faithful because God is compassionate, merciful, and still working.	
Teaching Script / Guide	

## LET'S BREAK THE ICE

**Leader Note:** *Pick one to get the group going. These are meant to be fun and easy!*

- What's the hardest thing you've ever had to wait for? (Birthday, food at a restaurant, a trip, anything...)
- Are you a patient person or an impatient person? Give an example!

## BIBLE STUDY Read Together: James 5:7–12

### Let's look at what it says:

- In verse 7, what example does James use to talk about patience? What does a farmer have to do while waiting for crops to grow?
- In verse 8, James says to “strengthen your hearts.” What reason does he give for why we can do that?
- In verse 9, James gives a warning about how we treat people while we wait. What does he say?
- In verse 11, what does James say God is like? Why do you think he mentions that at the end?

### Now let's think about what it means:

- The teaching said patience doesn't mean doing nothing — it means being faithful while trusting God. What's the difference between those two things?
- Why do you think waiting can make us grumpy or mean toward people around us? Have you ever seen that happen?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Leader Note:** *Keep it conversational. These questions connect the teaching to real middle school life.*

- Is there something you've been praying about or hoping for where it feels like nothing is happening? What's that been like?
- When things don't go your way or feel slow, how do you usually react? (Get frustrated? Give up? Take it out on someone? Something else?)

- The teaching said waiting can make us complain, give up, or take things into our own hands. Which one do you relate to the most?
- The teaching said: “When you cannot see what God is doing, you can still trust who He is.” Does that feel easy or hard for you? Why?

## MAKE IT REAL

**Leader Note:** *Slow down here. These questions are a little more personal. Share your own answer first to make it feel safe.*

- What’s one small faithful thing you could do this week, even if you can’t see what God is doing yet? (Pray, be kind to someone, tell the truth, keep showing up...)
- When you’re frustrated or impatient, is there a person who usually ends up getting the short end of it? What would it look like to bring that frustration to God instead?
- The teaching said you can pray: “God, I’m frustrated. Help me trust You. Strengthen my heart while I wait.” Is that a prayer you need to pray right now?

## THE GOSPEL CONNECTION

**Leader Note:** *Bring it back to Jesus in a simple, clear way. Great moment to share the gospel with students who are newer to faith.*

Jesus knows what it feels like to go through something hard. When He died on the cross, it looked like everything was over. His followers were confused and heartbroken. But God was still working. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! The resurrection shows us that God can be doing His greatest work even when it looks like nothing is happening.

- How does it change things to know that Jesus went through something really hard and came out the other side? How does that help you trust Him when you’re waiting?
- The teaching said: “Waiting is never wasted when we’re waiting with Jesus.” What do you think that means?
- Has anyone here ever decided to trust Jesus? If not, this is a great time to ask questions!

## THIS WEEK / PRAYER

Pick one of these to try before you meet again:

- Pray every day this week about one thing you’re waiting on or worried about.
  - When frustration shows up, try pausing and praying before you react.
  - Take prayer requests — especially anything students are waiting on or struggling to trust God with.
  - Pray that God would strengthen everyone’s hearts while they wait.
  - Thank God for anything good He’s done since you last met.
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