



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	

HOOK

- **Use this time to build a connection:**
 - Either you can start with a story about a time when you had to wait for something and it felt like it was taking forever.
 - Or you can use an introduction like this...
- **Have you ever had to wait for something that felt like it was taking forever?**
 - Maybe you were waiting for your birthday, Christmas morning, the school day to end, or food to come at a restaurant.
 - Waiting is hard. And honestly, we are not very good at it.
 - We live in a world where almost everything feels instant. You can send a message instantly. You can watch a video instantly. You can search for an answer instantly.
 - So when life makes us wait, we usually do not love it.
 - Because it often leads us to wonder if anything is even happening.
 - Take the food example: Has your food ever taken so long that you wonder if the server forgot to put the order in...?
- **Today, James is going to teach us something really important: When life feels slow, God is still working.**

TENSION:

- **Waiting is not just hard because it takes time. Waiting is hard because we start to wonder what is happening.**
 - Maybe you have prayed about something, but nothing seems different. Maybe you have tried to do the right thing, but life still feels hard. Maybe you are waiting for a friendship to get better, a family situation to change, or a hard season to finally be over.

- When life feels slow, it can be easy to get impatient. Sometimes impatience makes us complain. Sometimes it makes us give up. Sometimes it makes us take things into our own hands.
- James is writing to Christians who were going through hard things. They were trying to follow Jesus, but life was not easy. They needed encouragement to keep going.
- **And James reminds them that followers of Jesus are built different.**
 - **We do not give up just because life feels slow. We wait with faith because God is still working.**

BIBLE:

- *Either read or invite a student to come up and read James 5:7-12.*
 - Before reading, say: As we read, listen for what James says about patience, waiting, and trusting God.
- **James teaches us 3 truths about waiting:**
 - **Be patient because God is still working**
 - Look at verse 7. James says, “Be patient until the Lord’s coming.” Then he gives the picture of a farmer waiting for fruit from the earth.
 - A farmer plants seeds, but he cannot make the crops grow instantly. He can prepare the soil, plant the seed, and work faithfully, but he still has to wait.
 - Sometimes following Jesus feels like planting seeds. You pray, obey, and keep showing up, but you do not always see the result right away.
 - **James says to be patient. But patience does not mean doing nothing. Patience means being faithful while trusting God along the way.**
 - A farmer does not quit because fruit does not appear the next day. He waits because he believes growth is happening, even when he cannot see all of it yet.
 - When life feels slow, God is still working.
 - **Stay strong while you wait**
 - Look at verse 8. James says, “You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord’s coming is near.”
 - Waiting is not just about passing time. Waiting is about becoming stronger in faith.
 - When life is slow or hard, it can be easy for your heart to get tired. You may start doubting, drifting, or wondering if obedience is worth it.
 - James says, “Strengthen your hearts.”
 - In other words, do not give up. Stay close to Jesus. Keep praying. Keep obeying. Keep trusting God.
 - And James gives the reason: Jesus is coming back. The story is not over. God will make all things right.
 - **Do not let waiting make you bitter**
 - Look at verse 9. James says, “Brothers and sisters, do not complain about one another.”

- That may feel random at first, but it actually makes a lot of sense. When we are frustrated, tired, or impatient, we often take it out on the people around us. (Anybody else get hangry from time to time?)
- Maybe you had a bad day and snapped at your sibling. Maybe you were stressed and were rude to a friend. Waiting can put pressure on us, and pressure often reveals what is in our hearts.
- James is saying, "Do not let waiting make you bitter. Do not let frustration turn you against each other."
 - Followers of Jesus do not just wait with patience toward God. We also show patience toward people.
- **Remember who God is**
 - In verse 11, James reminds them of Job's endurance and then says, "The Lord is compassionate and merciful."
 - That final line matters. James does not just say, "Be patient because you have to." He says, "Be patient because of who God is."
 - God is compassionate, which means He cares about what you are going through. God is merciful, which means He is kind and faithful to His people.
- **When you are waiting, God is not ignoring you. When life feels slow, God has not stopped caring. When you cannot see what He is doing, you can still trust who He is.**

APPLICATION/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION SET UP:

- So what does this look like in our everyday lives, and how can we wait with faith instead of giving up?
 - **Keep being faithful in small ways**
 - You may not be able to control how fast something changes, but you can choose faithfulness today.
 - You can pray today. You can obey today. You can be kind today. You can tell the truth today.
 - Waiting with God does not mean doing nothing. It means doing the next right thing while trusting Him with the outcome.
 - **Pay attention to what waiting brings out of you**
 - Waiting can reveal what is happening in our hearts.
 - When things do not go your way, do you complain more? Do you snap at people? Do you give up quickly?
 - Instead of ignoring that, bring it to God. You can pray, "God, I'm frustrated. Help me trust You. Strengthen my heart while I wait."
 - **Remember who God is**
 - James says the Lord is compassionate and merciful.
 - So when waiting feels hard, remind yourself of what is true: God sees me. God cares about me. God is still working. God can be trusted.
- **You may not understand everything God is doing, but you can trust what James tells us about His character.**

GOSPEL MOMENT/CLOSE:

- Here is the good news: Jesus knows what it means to suffer and wait.
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- Jesus came into a world full of pain, sin, and brokenness. He was rejected, mistreated, and nailed to a cross. And when He died, it looked like evil had won.
 - For His followers, it must have felt like everything was over. But God was still working.
 - Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead.
 - The cross reminds us that even when we cannot see what God is doing, He can still be working for our good and His glory.
 - At the cross, Jesus died for our sin. He died for our impatience, our complaining, our unbelief, and every way we have failed to trust God.
 - And then Jesus rose again so we could be forgiven, made new, and given real hope.
 - **That means we can wait differently. We do not wait like people who have no hope. We wait knowing Jesus is alive, Jesus is with us, and Jesus is coming back.**
 - So as we get ready to go to small groups, here is the question I want you to think about: Where do you need to trust God while you wait?
 - Maybe you are waiting for something to change. Maybe you are waiting for an answer to prayer. Maybe you are waiting for a hard season to end.
 - **Whatever it is, remember this: When life feels slow, God is still working.**
 - The Lord is compassionate and merciful. And because Jesus is alive, waiting is never wasted when we are waiting with Him.
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