



## **Dig Deeper @Home – “I Pledge Allegiance ...”**

### **Complement to lesson on 05/23/21 – “To God over Immediate Results”**

#### **ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. What kind of garden have you planted? What is your best piece of advice for someone who is thinking about planting a garden?
2. What are some of the things that cause you to lose patience or feel overwhelmed? What has really tested your patience to the breaking point?

#### **MEMORIZE – James 3: 17-18**

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

#### **READ James 5:7-18**

##### **Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read this passage? What sticks out to you?
2. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
3. In verse 8, what does it mean to “establish your heart”, and what are some specific steps that you can take to obey this command? What reason is given in v. 8 for the need to “establish” our hearts? Why is it important to “establish our hearts” in light of the Lord’s coming? (Read 2 Peter 3:1-15)
4. Read James 5:10, Jeremiah 18:18-23, 20:1-18, 26:1-15, 37:11-16, 38:1-6. As you read about some of the prophet Jeremiah’s life, how is he an “example of suffering and patience?” How did he “remain steadfast?”
5. Patience is both a command, vs. 7, and a fruit of the Spirit (cf. Galatians 5:22-23). How do these two ideas fit together?
6. James says in vs.16 that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective and uses the story of Elijah and the 450 prophets of Baal to illustrate his point. Read the end of the story in 1 Kings 18:37-38. Do you truly believe that God hears and answers prayers? Does he hear and answer your prayers?

## **Experiential activity – Exercise in Patience**

Do something this next week that causes you to pause and to practice patience. As you are standing in line or driving in traffic or dealing with conflict or waiting for someone to come to you, take a deep breath and remember through the Holy Spirit in you, God's patience is with you. Be reminded how "the Lord is compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11) toward you. And if you have young children, do something with them that takes time to complete (baking, planting seeds or flowers, putting together a puzzle). And as you work together on this project, talk about how important it is to be patient and to continue to work and wait until the task is finished.

**SING** (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)  
Waiting Here for You – Martin Smith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3O6JIAKENk8>  
Do it Again – Elevation Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scV2lsa1M84>  
Be Still, My Soul – Mennonite Hymnal - #73

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

### **Sending prayer based on the lesson:**

*"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:9)

Lord, it's hard for me to wait in this world of "instant gratification". Teach me this week to establish my heart on wanting and waiting for what you want for me. Soothe my anxiety. Take away my desperation. Stretch my perseverance. Thank you for knowing what's best for me. Thank you for helping me let go and giving me the patience to wait on your timing not mine. Amen.