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## **C. STRENGTHENING CHARACTER**

### *C.6: I don't have enough **patience*** *[James 5:7-11]*

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#### **A STORY**

Anger flared as once again the coke can was left out. “Why can’t they just put it in the pop can box?” Frustration over the lack of people’s care for little details can irritate nerves. This person’s conclusion is that, “They just don’t care.” “The church doesn’t care, the family doesn’t care, my wife doesn’t care,” were the words coming out of his mouth. “I am losing my patience with people.”

#### **DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE**

We suggested that he look at **James 5:7-11**(NIV):

*<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! <sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

#### **DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY**

1. What is your definition of patience?
2. In this passage, what is a key element of patience?
3. What is the example of patience?
4. What feelings are involved in your impatience?

#### **APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

5. What is your biggest struggle concerning patience?
6. What happens to cause you to struggle?
7. What insights do you gain in this passage about how God brings patience into our lives?
8. Where does God’s role fit into learning patience?

9. What is the most important item you need to take steps to have patience?
10. What would one step be to move your forward in this area of life?
11. When will you implement this plan?
12. How can I be of help and provide accountability?

LIST ANY OTHER VERSES THAT YOU HAVE FOUND WOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE: