*We Need Patience Now!*

*Small Group Questions*

* In what area of your life are you struggling to demonstrate patience? Is there a particular person with whom you find it difficult to be patient?
* How does your impatience manifest itself: Anger? Annoyance? Sarcasm? Judgment? Discontentment?
* What’s the underlying reason for your impatience: Pride? Control? Comfort? Fear? Selfishness? Distrust?

Two Biblical Definitions of Patience:

**Makrothumia** – a compound of makros [long, far distant] and thumos [passion, anger], meaning “patience, long-suffering” [3115].

Refers to “(1) state of remaining tranquil while awaiting an outcome, patience, steadfastness, endurance; (2) a state of being able to bear up under provocation, forbearance, patience toward others; (a) of human beings; (b) of transcendent beings: God & Christ.”

**Hupomone** – as derived from hupomenō [to stay behind, to await, endure], meaning “a remaining behind, a patient enduring” [5281].

Refers to “(1) the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, perseverance; (2) the act or state of patient waiting for someone or something, expectation.”

* How do these meanings of patience from the Bible add to your understanding and perspective of patience?
* In the Bible, perseverance and patience go hand in hand as seen in the word hupomone. Read the following verses and discuss what the fruit of patience/perseverance seem to lead too. (Matthew 24:13, Romans 5:3-4, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:23, 10:36, James 1:2-4).
* The Bible also frequently mentions a promise along with patience and perseverance (Psalm 37:7-9, 37:34, 40:1-3, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 6:12, 10:36, James 5:7-8). What are promises do you find for those who wait on God patiently?
* Why is God patient with sinners? (See 2 Pet. 3:8, 9.) (SALVATION) Considering this answer, how would it help your patience with others to consider this same reasoning?
* How in your life have you seen God demonstrate patience towards you?
* What is something right now that you have trouble waiting patiently on God for?
* What helps you remember that because God loves you the most and knows what is best, that surrendering to him and being patient for his pace and plan are what is best?