

11. THE REWARDS OF PERSEVERANCE

REFLECTION

Begin your study by sharing thoughts on this question.

1. Think of a time when you persevered in spite of difficult circumstances. What were the rewards for your perseverance?

BIBLE READING

Read James 5:7–11 from the NCV or the NKJV.

NCV

⁷Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes again. A farmer patiently waits for his valuable crop to grow from the earth and for it to receive the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You, too, must be patient. Do not give up hope, because the Lord is coming soon. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not complain against each other or you will be judged guilty. And the Judge is ready to come! ¹⁰Brothers and sisters, follow the example of the prophets who spoke for the Lord. They suffered many hard things, but they were patient. ¹¹We say they are happy because they did not give up. You have heard about Job's patience, and you know the Lord's purpose for him in the end. You know the Lord is full of mercy and is kind.

NKJV

⁷Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

⁹Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. ¹¹Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

DISCOVERY

Explore the Bible reading by discussing these questions.

2. Why should believers be motivated to patiently endure?

3. How does the illustration of a farmer show the importance of patience?
4. Whose example should believers follow? Why?
5. What did the prophets gain from their suffering?
6. How was God's compassion and mercy extended to Job?
7. When has it been difficult for you to persevere in your Christian walk?
8. How have Christian friends encouraged you to persevere?
9. What can believers do to help one another develop patience and perseverance?

PRAYER

Father, you never promised us that this world would be easy, you never said there would be no pain. But you did promise that if we persevere, we would be blessed by your mercy and your grace. Teach us to hold firmly to your promises, so that we can endure the struggles and storms of this world.

JOURNALING

Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.

How can the promise of Christ's return help me face my daily struggles?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

10. What new insight about God's character have you gained from this lesson?

11. How does your understanding of God encourage you to persevere?

12. How can you encourage others to persevere?

For more Bible passages on perseverance, see Romans 2:7; 5:3, 4; 8:24, 25; 1 Timothy 4:16; Hebrews 10:36; 12:1; James 1:2–4, 12; 2 Peter 1:5–9.