

## How is patience related to “endurance” in the verses from Romans 5:1-5?

- + What does patience produce?
- + How is patience related to long-suffering?

### Reflect on...

- + What do you notice in the way that non-Christians express patience, compared to those who hope in Christ?
- + Who in your life stands out for exhibiting Christlike faithfulness during their waiting patiently?
- + How would you describe patience to a five-year-old?
- + Why do you think patience is a Fruit of the Spirit?

### GROWTH:

#### JOURNAL PROMPT

God, help me to live intentionally this fall as I learn more about your Holy Spirit and the attributes of a life rooted in you. Nourish me through my study of your word, community with my small group, and worship in church. Show me clearly the tasks, relationships, and work to which you are calling me. Amen.

#### CALLING PROMPT

God is inviting you to participate in his ministry by answering the unique call on your life. How can you actively respond to scripture and God’s presence this week?

#### CLOSING PRAYER

**Let’s prepare for the week ahead, shaped by our time together today.**

Gracious God, we trust that you go with us in the week ahead. We are changed each time we gather to learn more about you and your Word. Please give us boldness to proclaim your good news in the coming week and bring us back safely together again in this community. Amen.



### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, help us to feel your presence during our gathering as a community today. As we do life together and learn more of your Word, help us to grow in faith. Help our time to be fruitful and the fellowship within our group to flourish. Thank you for the gift of today and of this small group study. Amen.

### COMMUNITY

**Time to build relationships: mix + mingle!**

- + What specific point resonated with you from the weekend’s sermon?
- + If you couldn’t attend, ask others in your group what stood out to them. (Note: Links to both video and audio versions of previous sermons can be found at <https://standrewmethodist.org/worship/sermons/>)
- + Where did you see God’s presence in your past weekend?

**VIDEO – WEEK 4: PATIENCE  
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES**

**SCRIPTURE**

**A great starting place is always in God’s word. This week we are in:**

**GENESIS 17:1-9**

*“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”*

*<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup> The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.” <sup>9</sup> Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you, and your descendants after you for the generations to come.*

**GENESIS 21:1-7**

*Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup> When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.*

*<sup>6</sup> Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” <sup>7</sup> And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”*

**ROMANS 4:20 (PAUL DESCRIBING ABRAHAM)**

*<sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God...*

**ROMANS 5:1-5**

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”*

**SITUATION**

Reflect on the difference between the patience of God and the patience we have with one another. Throughout scripture God makes promises and covenants with his people. The unique thing about the Lord is that he can perfectly fulfill every promise made, in a way that humans cannot. God makes a promise to Abraham that he will have descendants as numerous as the stars, and yet Abraham and Sarah wait decades for a child. Eventually,

**QUESTIONS:**

**Why do you think God remained patient and committed to the Israelites in the Old Testament?**

- + Can you relate to Abraham or Sarah in their waiting?
- + Have you been in a season of waiting where you’ve wondered if God will follow through?

If so, what brought you comfort or inspiration?

**God is a promise keeper. God’s thoughts and ways are not our own. So, how do you think God’s capacity for patience is different from our own?**

- + How does God exhibit patience still today?
- + Does patience have to revolve around waiting on someone?