



Discussion Guide

March 22, 2015



Discussion Questions	Leader Notes
<p>Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl, One was an optimistic soul; But the other took the gloomy view, "We shall drown," he cried, without more ado. So with a last despairing cry, He flung up his legs and said, "Good-bye." Quoth the other frog with a merry grim, "I can't get out, but I won't give in. I'll just swim round till my strength is spent, Then will I die the more content." Bravely he swam till it would seem His struggles began to churn the cream. On the top of the butter at last he stopped, And out of the bowl, he gaily hopped. What is the moral? 'Tis easily found; If you can't hop out, keep swimming round. -Walter Knight</p>	<p><i>Helpful Hint:</i> Get people involved in the discussion by asking non-threatening questions that will engage the whole group.</p>
<p>Discussion Kick Off</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share either a life moment with the group: You nearly gave up, but persevered and succeeded OR you got frustrated and gave up. What were the results? 2. What is the difference between patience and perseverance? Which is most difficult for you? Why? 	<p>Read James 5:7-12. Make it more interesting by reading from the Message version (free on the You Version Bible App).</p>
<p>Evaluate It</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. James goes on to give three examples of patient people: a farmer, the prophets and Job. How is each an example of patience? Why do you think James pointed to them as examples of patience? 2. What is the role of faith in responding to suffering? 3. What does it mean to grumble against one another? Give an example. Have you ever grumbled against someone? 4. What negative results have you seen arise from impatience? Where does impatience come from? 5. Can perseverance be a means of being a witness for Christ? If so, how? If not, why not? 	<p><i>Press on. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful individuals with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.</i> -Calvin Coolidge</p>
<p>Make It Personal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. James mentioned the patience of Old Testament prophets. How do you demonstrate similar patience in 2015? 2. When we are rested, when we are within the flow of the Holy Spirit in our life, we praise God and make decisions that lead to righteousness. But when we let our guard down, get tired, get impatient with trusting the Spirit, we gossip, we hurt, get bitter and selfish. What do you need to do to be within the flow of the Holy Spirit? 	
<p>Be Persistent</p> <p>Bill Hybels tells about an interesting experience after a baptism service in their church. He writes: "I bumped into a woman in the stairwell who was crying. I thought this was a little odd, since the service was so joyful. I asked her if she was alright. She said, 'No, I'm struggling. My mom was baptized today. I prayed for her every day for almost twenty years. The reason I'm crying is because I came this close to giving up on her. At the five-year mark, I said, 'Who needs this?' God isn't listening. At the ten-year mark, I said, 'Why am I wasting my breath?' At the fifteen-year mark, I said, 'This is absurd.' At the nineteen-year mark, I said, 'I'm just a fool.' But I kept trying, kept praying. Even with weak faith, I kept praying. Then she gave her life to Christ and she was baptized. I will never doubt the power of prayer again.'"</p>	<p>At the end of the discussion take a moment to take prayer requests from the group (if you haven't done so) and pray for your group before you end your time together.</p>

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below:

Who establishes and makes up a table or life group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a table or life group? Leadership can be shared or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
 - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
 - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or jason@fcctown.com.

If you would like to talk with a minister,
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcctown.com Senior Minister
Chris Kiger chris@fcctown.com Student Minister
Jason Fox jason@fcctown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcctown.com Connections Minister
Tim Hurd tim@fcctown.com Children's Minister
Shannon Smith Shannon@fcctown.com Assistant Children's Director