

# ***GROWTH GUIDE***

## **READ & REVIEW**

Today's focus is going to be on looking at the biblical text and understanding what the writer was communicating to his original audience.

Begin by reading James 5:7-11 in its entirety.

### **Read James 5:7-8**

*James turns back to addressing the church, with his familiar use of "brothers". He charges them to be patient until the coming of the Lord and uses the metaphor of the farmer waiting for fruit of the harvest.*

How does the image of the farmer waiting for the fruit of the harvest help you understand the coming of the Lord? How does it encourage you to live as we await Jesus' return?

### **Read James 5:9**

*James tells the church not to grumble against one another and warns that Jesus' return spells judgment for those who choose to do so.*

How does the image of a judge standing at the door encourage believers to get along?

## Read James 5:10-11

*James offers the prophets and Job as examples of patient endurance. Both examples are remembered because they were steadfast through suffering.*

What are some specific examples from the prophets that might be an encouragement to the church to remain faithful?

## Read James 5:12

*James gives another charge to the church to not swear by anything but to let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no.*

How does Jesus' return encourage people to have integrity in the commitments they make?