



# SHATTERPROOF

overcoming life's trials

## WELCOME

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WISHING VS. HOPING

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

## ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What do you think the difference is between wishing for something and hoping for something? What are some things people wish for? What are some things they hope for?
- ◆ Describe some situations where we are forced to wait. What feelings does waiting tend to generate?

## DISCUSSION

1. Read [James 5:7-9](#). Describe the process of growth for the farmer. What is the farmer's reward? How does this process compare to the growth of the follower of Jesus? What is our reward?
2. What is James certain will happen? What advice does James repeatedly give as we wait for this event?
3. A wish is the *possibility* that something good will happen. Hope is the *certainty* that something good will happen. Why is hope better? How does hope help us stand firm as we wait patiently? How does the certainty of our hope help us persevere through suffering and difficult circumstances?
4. Read [Romans 12:9-13](#). What attitudes are God's people to have? What does verse 12 say about hope and suffering?
5. How is the attitude described in [James 5:9](#) the opposite of being joyful in hope and patient in affliction? How might participating in this negative behavior shatter your faith or the faith of others?
6. Read [James 5:10-11](#) and [Matthew 5:11-12](#). What did the prophets do? In Matthew, how did Jesus describe the way the prophets were treated? How do you think hope helped the prophets endure suffering? Of what were they certain?
7. Job endured great suffering and loss at no fault of his own. He openly shared his feelings and pain in prayer, but was faithful in praise to God. God ultimately rewarded Job abundantly beyond his losses. What does [James 5:11](#) say about how God responds to our suffering?
8. How is God described in verse 11? How could believing this about the One in control of your future help you to find hope and persevere?
9. How can the way you respond to your suffering impact your faith in God? What does your response tell you about the presence of hope in your life? How can your experiences with suffering be an example to others of God's mercy and compassion?
10. How can you express the certainty of your hope that Jesus will return, that heaven is real, and that, patiently standing firm is the best response to suffering?
11. Describe a current struggle in your life. Are you wishing it would go away, or are you hoping God will use it for good? Are you wishing for something to solve the problem, or are you placing your hope in heaven? If your focus is in the temporal, what steps could you take to change your focus from wishing to hoping?
12. The book of James begins and ends talking about suffering. How would you summarize these bookends?
13. Glance back through the book of James. As you think about the principles of a Shatterproof Faith (Finding Joy, Overcoming Anger, Fighting Favoritism, Faith Under Surveillance, Taming the Tongue, Overcoming Pride and Wishing vs. Hoping), which one has most impacted you in this series? How have you begun to practice these principles and what difference have they made in your faith?

## PRAYER

- ◆ Ask your community group to pray that God would help you temper your faith with the principles James addresses.