



MIRACLE GROW - Week 4 PATIENCE: Discussion Guide

TOUCH BASE - 10 Minutes

- 1) On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = totally patient v. 10 = you microwave pop tarts because the toaster takes too long) where are you today?
- 2) What situations are challenging for you to demonstrate patience (traffic, DMV line, waiting for a pop tart to toast, etc.)
- 3) What insights did you gain from this week's reading in the book or sermon?

TAKE IT IN - 10 Minutes

Watch the video for week 4 entitled "Patience" on the DVD or at tlc.org/miraclegrow.

Video Notes

Two aspects of Patience

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

TALK IT OUT - 25 to 35 Minutes

1) Read 1 Timothy 1:16

- In what ways has God been patient with you in your Christian walk?
- In what ways do other people have to be patient with you?

2) Read Exodus 34:6 and Micah 7:18-19

... "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Exodus 34:6 NIV

"Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show

mercy.¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:18-19 (NIV)

- What truths do these verses reveal about God’s character? What character traits do you find comforting? Do you find any traits surprising; if so what?

3) Read Ephesians 4:1-2 “... As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

- What does it mean to live a life worthy of your calling? What role does patience play in living a life worthy of our calling?

4) Read Psalm 33:20-22 twice, once out loud as a group and once silently. Circle any words that stand out. Share what you circled and why.

- How can hope and trust in the Lord help you be more patient?

5) What examples can you think of where Christians in your culture have shown or are now showing greater patience in the face of persecution and suffering?

TAKE IT WITH YOU - 25 to 35 Minutes

1) How would your relationships be different today if you put into practice the patience that Jesus has? How does remembering His patience towards you help you in turn be more patient with others?

2) What situations make you more likely to be impatient with others? At such times, how can you show patience as the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray specifically for God’s Spirit to empower you in your interactions this week that require patience.