



Session 5: A person of PATIENCE

Discussion openers...

- Have you noticed any of the fruit of the Spirit in action in you on your frontlines in the last week?
- On a scale of 1 – 10, how patient are you?
- What do you struggle to be patient about the most?

What is the purpose of Christlikeness?

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/Koxsw4rh2k> (up to 5:34)

- Why should we seek to become more like Jesus? What does the video say are some of the different reasons to become more Christlike? Which do you relate to most?
- Mark Greene says 'as we grow more like Christ we are freer to be the people God created us to be.' What does this mean to you?

Being Patient People

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/Koxsw4rh2k> (From 5:34 onwards)

- In what ways has God been patient with you in your life so far? (perhaps discuss this in pairs)

Read **James 5:7-11**

- Being patient when you are suffering is hard. What hope and encouragement do these verses give us as we seek to persevere in hard times?
- What have you found has helped you be patient and persevere through challenging times?
- What do you think these verses might mean to those in the persecuted church worldwide?

Read **Colossians 3:12-13**

- What situations make you most likely to be impatient with others?
- At such times, how can you show the fruit of the Spirit in your life in patience? You might like to share a specific example you are struggling with at the moment.

Response

- Have a time of silence and think of a situation where you are struggling to be patient (it could be with a person or a particular circumstance you find yourself in). Offer this to God and ask the Holy Spirit to grow more patience in you.
- In the quiet, be still before God and listen to God. Do you sense God prompting you

- If there is a particular person in your group who is suffering and struggling to endure tough times, then you might all like to pray for them together.
- Take a few minutes also to pray for the persecuted church. You might like to use some resources from Open Doors (For example Pastor Andrew's story: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/pastor-andrew-nigeria/>)
- Finish by saying the prayer of John Stott together – and then commit to saying it every day this week.

Heavenly Father, I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Amen.