

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**



 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade



**Memory Work:**


**“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16**

**Hook:**

**Patient Plantings (Activity).** ,  **Note: Prior preparation for this activity is required.** In this morning’s Bible Adventure, students will hear how James gave an example of a farmer having patience to wait for his crops to grow. Faithful Christians must possess Christ-like patience while under persecution, knowing that He will judge all when He returns. Start your classroom activities by planting seeds (flowers, herbs, or beans) in small pots or cups. As you do this activity together, talk about farmers, growing crops, and the patience required. These will be completed during the TOOK time and taken home by the students.

**Patience/Longsuffering (Discussion).** ,  Ask the students if there are things in their lives for which they need to be patient. List these things on one side of the whiteboard. Most will probably have to do with waiting to get something they want as opposed to longsuffering. Have someone read the definition of patience from the dictionary. Ask the students if they have a better understanding of what patience is in the sense of longsuffering. On the other side of the whiteboard, write down any additional things they would now list that they must be patient about. In today’s Bible Adventure, the students will hear what the Bible says about patience and longsuffering.

**Answered Prayer (Discussion).** ,  What are some things the students have prayed for in the past or are praying for now? Was the time frame or the answer different from what they had hoped? What about answered prayer in others’ lives (someone they’ve read about in a biography or in the Bible)? Prayers are not necessarily answered in the way or time frame that we would like, yet we know that God hears, and He answers our prayers in the best way for us. We must do what the Lord asks of us and be patient to see how He will answer our prayers concerning the circumstances/difficulties in our lives.

**What is Persecution? (Discussion).**  Persecution means “to oppress or harass with ill-treatment; to annoy persistently; to bother, to pursue.” Discuss with the students what they think persecution is. Have they ever met up with a bully? Have they ever wanted to be involved in some activity but were driven away? These are just a few of the ways that we are persecuted. The Bible tells us that since we believe in Jesus Christ, we will be persecuted. Talk about what causes such hatred that people would persecute others. When we are persecuted, God’s Word tells us that we are to “bless those who persecute [us]; bless and do not curse” (Romans 12:14), and “be patient...until the Lord’s coming” (James 5:7). We are also commanded to “love [our] enemies and pray for those who persecute [us], that [we] may be sons of [our] Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44-45).

- Invite a Farmer to Visit (Discussion).** 🌾, 🦋 Have a farmer visit your classroom this morning. Lay the groundwork for the lesson by talking about all the preparation and patience a farmer needs before he sees the fruits of his labor. Farmers must be very patient and trust God for each harvest. If you can't get a person to visit, bring in pictures, books, etc., to use as you talk about this with your students. James uses the farmer to illustrate the Christ-like patience required by believers under persecution.
- Meet Our Elders (Booklet/Discussion).** 🌾, 🦋 Today in the Bible Adventure, students will hear how important it is to have a group of church leaders called elders to care for those in the church. One of the ways this group of godly men cares for us is to pray for those who are sick. Duplex-copy and assemble **JAM05.GF1 Pgs. 1-4** into a booklet. This booklet provides a brief sketch of some of our elders and their families. Review the profiles with your students by talking about who these people are in our church (maybe some of the students know these men) and what responsibilities each of them has within the church.
- The Book of Martyrs (Discussion).** 🦋 Read an excerpt from "Foxe's Book of Martyrs" or request an excerpt from John Piper's "The Godward Life: Book 2" on the Haim family from Children's Ministry. Discuss why some people hate and hurt Christians. For the older ones, ask them how they might respond to suffering and persecution. Talk to them about what this country might be like if there were widespread persecution.
- "Stop, Yield, Go to God" (Review/Discussion).** 🦋 In last week's lesson, we talked about the dangers of pride and how God desires for us to be humble. We also talked about three words that will help us become wise and humble children: "Stop, Yield, & Go." Can anyone share how they applied these three words this past week? In what ways did you "Stop," "Yield" to others, and then "Go to God?"



### **Book:** **Presentation Ideas -**

- Waiting for Harvest (Illustration).** JAM05.GF2.
- Persecution of Job (Illustration).** JAM05.GF3.
- Elders Praying for the Sick (Illustration).** JAM05.GF4.
- Invite an Elder to Share (Guest Speaker).** 🌾, 🦋 Invite one of FBC's elders to come and share how they pray for the needs of the body at the elders' meetings on Tuesday morning. Have him share specifically how the students can request prayer on behalf of their needs, and how the elders will pray for their needs.

### **Bible Adventure –**

James began his letter by telling Christians to "count it all joy" when they went through trials and temptations. Now, as his letter comes to a close, he repeats his teaching that they should endure their sufferings and trials the same way Jesus would--with patience.

All through the book, James talks about those who had a lot of money and possessions. Even though the Bible does not teach that having money is wrong, it could cause problems for people. Money can tempt people into thinking that they do not need God in their lives. Their rejection of God results in their using money for sinful, evil purposes. At the time James wrote his letter there were rich people who were persecuting Christians. They would cheat those who worked for them out of the wages they had earned. The rich were taking advantage of the poor Christians, dragging them into the courts in order to take away what little they had.

Some of these rich people were outside the church, but others were actually a part of it, claiming to be Christians. James lets them know that their riches will not last and that God will judge them for loving

their wealth more than they love Him. Jesus says much the same thing in Matthew 6:19, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." Earthly riches eventually turn to dust so to place one's trust in them is to make the same foolish mistake that these wealthy people in James' time had made. James uses strong words, scolding them for using their wealth to bully others in order to gain even more wealth. James says that they should "weep and wail" because of the judgment God would cause to fall on them (5:1).

Some of the believers were tired, discouraged, and even sick because of their mistreatment. It would have been very easy, even understandable, for them to lose patience and want to fight back, making the rich people suffer the way that they had suffered. Nevertheless, James calls believers to do just the opposite. He calls them to remain patient (5:7). The definition of the word patience is "to suffer for a long time." It's where we get the word "longsuffering," and the way James uses it here means specifically to patiently endure difficult people and to stand up under unfair conditions and bear wrongs done to oneself. We have a perfect example of someone who was able to do this in our Lord Jesus Christ. He braved the cross, even though He was not guilty of any crime. He did not fight back, even though He had the power and every right to do so. In the same way, James encourages the Christians who are suffering to remain patient and to strengthen their hearts, even when faced with such unfairness and cruelty. Their patience would prove that they had true faith in Christ.

How does James expect believers to do this? For the true believer, James teaches that there are anchors that will hold them fast in the storms of suffering. One reason believers can be patient is because we know the Lord is coming back. If we will remember that when Christ returns, He will judge all men and make right all the wrongs done to His children by sinful men, it makes the unfairness easier to bear. Knowing that Christ will take care of it will help us to be patient and bear up under mistreatment.

To illustrate this, James uses two pictures. The first is of a farmer who plants his crops and then waits a whole season for them to mature so that he can harvest them. This is just like the Christian who patiently waits for the Lord's return, knowing that Christ will reward the righteous and judge the wicked. The second picture James gives is that of Job. Job suffered unbelievably, losing everything on earth that was important to him, but he never blamed God. In the end, God rewarded him with a greater understanding of Himself and proved that He is a God of mercy and tenderness. This is the response a true child of God should have to persecution. We should go through it patiently, trusting in the mercy and faithfulness of our God.

The other thing a person of true faith will do when going through suffering is to pray and to ask their church elders to pray for them. Some believers are spiritually and physically weakened by suffering. These believers are to ask the godly leaders of the church to come and pray for them (5:14). If the person has committed any sins, they are to confess these sins. God promises that confessing our sins to one another brings spiritual healing to us. Pride keeps us quiet about the sin in our lives, but God wants us to be honest and accountable to other Christians, so that they can pray for us. When godly people pray for us, there will be spiritual healing. That's why James says, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (5:16). James reminds us of Elijah who prayed that it would not rain. God answered his prayer, and it didn't rain for three-and-a-half years! Then Elijah prayed for rain, and the sky poured it down (1 Kings 17:1, 18:1, James 5:17-18). This happened when Elijah, a man just like you and me, asked for God's help!

Prayer is a great comfort for us when we are physically or spiritually sick. Often when our bodies are sick, our first thought is to go see a doctor. There's nothing wrong with that, except we easily forget that it is God who is able to heal every sickness and disease. We can go to the Lord for physical healing, and if He chooses for us to be well, we can give Him thanks for answered prayer. We can also go to Him when our hearts and spirits are sick and ask Him to heal us and give us a right relationship with Him again. By confessing our sins to the Lord and to others and asking them to pray for us, our hearts will be healed!

The test of patience and the test of prayer show what we are putting our faith and trust in. To be patient and not strike out at those who hurt us shows that we trust God to take care of us and to make everything right in the end. To run to Him in prayer and to ask others to pray for us shows that we understand that God is the only answer to our problems, the only help we can count on. Our faith is alive and active, seeking God with everything that is in us. If we have this kind of faith, we have a faith that works!

### Aim Questions:

1. **What are some of the ways in which the Christians at this time were being persecuted?** *Suffering physically.*
2. **What did James tell them to do in the midst of this suffering?** *Be patient.*
3. **Why were they to be patient in the midst of these wrongs?** *Because Jesus is coming back soon and will judge the wrongdoer.*
4. **What were the sick to ask for?** *Prayer.*
5. **Who is to pray for the physically and spiritually sick in the church?** *The elders or godly men of the church.*



### Look:



**Get Help! (Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 In today's Bible lesson, we found that when people wrongly hurt us, we should be patient and not strike back. But sometimes it's hard to be patient all by ourselves with no one's help. That is why we can learn to be patient with others by getting help. If someone were to hurt you, who might you turn to for help in being patient? We can and should go to our parents, teachers, or elders when others wrong us. Because they're older and wiser, they will tell us what God wants us to do, and we can learn patience with their help!



**Prayer Request Cards (Activity).** 🦋, 🦋 If you invited one of the elders as a guest speaker during the BOOK time, spend time in your small groups talking about and writing down specific prayer requests. Copy **JAM05.GF5** onto cardstock, and cut apart. Have students use these cards to record their requests. Try to keep the requests focused on illness or areas of persecution in relation to this morning's lesson. These will be collected and compiled for the elders so that they can pray for these requests this next week.



**Remember That Christ Is Coming (Worksheet).** 🦋 The promise of the return of Christ gives us great hope when we face difficulties here on earth. This promise helps us to endure and persevere through persecution and mistreatment. Have students color and complete the worksheet **JAM05.GF6**. Encourage them to consider the promise we have that Christ will judge everyone in the end. Mount this completed page on a piece of construction paper.



**Why Are We Persecuted and What Should We Do About It? (Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 James tells us that we are to be patient when we are wronged. James wasn't talking about when someone accidentally steps on our feet or bumps into us in the dark. James was talking about when someone intentionally causes us physical harm. There are many examples of persecution in the Bible that show us how we are to respond. Talk with the students about some of these instances as well as some of their own experiences. Refer to the Bible verses on **JAM05.GF7** as discussion points. If there is a missionary available, invite him or her to class and discuss what they have seen firsthand.













**Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **JAM05.GF8**.



**Have Patience (Song).** 🦋, 🦋  
Have patience; have patience; don't be in such a hurry.  
When you get impatient, you only start to worry.  
Remember, remember that God is patient, too.  
And think of all the times when others have to wait for you.



## Took:

- Patient Plantings Completion (Activity).** ,  This project continues from the **Patient Plantings Activity** in HOOK time. Have students paste a verse label from **JAMES05.GF9 Pg. 1** on the side of the pot or cup containing the planted seed. Give students instructions to provide their plants with light and water. It would be a good idea to check the germination period for the seed planted so that they will know when they might expect to see sprouts. Have the students record the daily progress of their plantings on **JAM05.GF9 Pg. 2**. Recording daily changes will emphasize the need for patience.
- Confess Your Sins! (Discussion).** ,  Separate the class into small groups for this discussion. In last week's lesson, we talked about fighting and quarreling with each other and how God hates these things because they show a heart of pride. Today, we learned about confessing our sins to one another and having someone older and wiser pray for us. Ask if there is anyone who wants to confess his or her sins from this past week. Have them take turns in sharing. Once they've done this, pray for each specifically!
- Patience Pillow (Craft).** *Note: Prior preparation for this activity is required.* ,  This craft could take the majority of your LOOK and TOOK time, depending on how detailed you want to make it. As we try to remember to be patient during persecution, we can use this soft pillow as a reminder. Patience is a soft response to harsh treatment. Have the pieces pre-assembled so that the project will move along smoothly. Provide fabric crayons for the students to write verses or decorate the fabric. Press with an iron to set. Have them stuff the pillows with batting, and complete by either sewing by machine (one brought from home) or by hand. Have plenty of needles and thread or use the larger needles with yarn. Usable fabric can be as simple as felt squares or scrap pieces.
- God Answers Prayer (Craft).** ,  Have students write short prayer requests on the lines provided on **JAM05.GF10**. Cut out as directed and assemble into a 3-D pair of praying hands. Coloring should be completed before the student glues it together. Encourage the students to keep this next to their beds as a reminder that not only does God answer prayer but that they should remember others in their prayers as well.
- The Persecution Punch (Craft).** ,  Each student will need:
  - JAM05.GF11 Pg. 1**
  - a verse label from **JAM05.GF11 Pg. 2**
  - 10-inch Chinette heavy paper plate
  - a long balloon with 3 sections
  - permanent felt-tip markers
  - glue
  - scissors
  - crayonsHave students choose a pair of shoes or feet from **JAM05.GF11 Pg. 1** and cut their favorite out. Have them glue the pair of shoes or feet to the center of an inverted plate, and then have them glue a verse label in front of them. They may color the plate to look like grass, flowers, or a road. Next, have them blow up their balloons so that three sections are inflated. (If sectioned balloons are not available, twist a long balloon into three sections.) Have students draw themselves on the balloon. Then have them cut a small hole through the bottom of the plate, and insert the tied end of the balloon through it. As they "punch" their balloons, remind them that James tells us that we are to stand firm, be patient, and persevere when we are persecuted.

## Ken Mewhinney

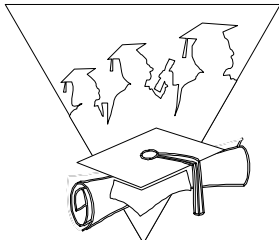
Ken became a Christian when he was a little boy. Raised in a Christian home, he remembers accepting Christ the week before his fifth Christmas. His consistent walk with God and faithfulness in service is a testimony to God's grace. Ken says it was in vogue to go to church when he was growing up. He saw many of his friends walk away from the church, but faith in Jesus Christ is a commitment made from the heart—the heart God gave Ken when he accepted Christ.

At the age of thirteen, Ken started working at a Christian camp and continued in that role for several years. A man he met at the camp helped him begin memorizing Scripture—for the content, he says, not just for prizes. As he matured in Christ, the Word of God continued to be a guiding light in Ken's life.

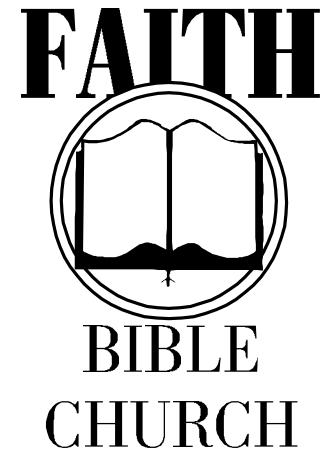
A friend at church introduced Ken to Joy. They both attended Washington State University, and Ken had noticed her before at college. Married in 1973, Ken and Joy have raised three children: Steve, Curt, and Libby. The two boys have graduated from high school, and Libby is a senior at Ferris High School.

As an elder who oversees FBC's College Ministry, Ken has a deep commitment to raising disciples who are able to train younger believers. In addition to working with our leaders and interns in College Ministry, Ken also disciples students who attend Whitworth College.

Ken has been a part of the France short-term missions team for the past three years, leading Bible studies there and investing in the French youth and collegians. The impact of Ken's ministry is the fruit of many years of obedience and faithfulness in being a "discipler" of men.



# Meet our Elders



## John Smith, Sr.

Having been raised in a Christian family and taught the Scriptures from an early age, John's focus in life was following Jesus. When he turned 12, the Holy Spirit convicted him of his own sin, pointing him to his need for a savior. He remembers this experience changing his life and cultivating in him a desire to read the Scriptures.

John and Elsie married after he left the military. John Jr. was the firstborn of their four children. The couple now has 16 grandchildren.

In the church where they attended, he taught in an evangelism/discipleship ministry and served on a missions council. Together he and Elsie taught Sunday school. John later became an elder and served as a shepherd in a college ministry.

A fireman by profession, John was blessed by God with the opportunity of being a chaplain with the Los Angeles Fire Department. His job allowed him to minister to the firemen, listening to their concerns and hurts, performing weddings, and officiating at funerals. After 25 years, John retired from that position, and he and Elsie moved to Spokane.

Here at FBC, the couple has served with John Koh in Children's and Family Ministry. John strongly desires that the church train children to become all that God wants them to be and enable young people for God's service. He also desires that FBC be led by godly men of good character.



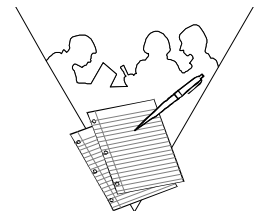
## Ken Johnson

Ken was born in Kettle Falls and moved to Spokane when he was in seventh grade. He married his wife, Judy, in 1964 and together they raised two daughters and enjoyed two granddaughters. Judy died in February of this year. Ken is employed in management at Kaiser Aluminum.

Ken and Judy were always involved in church but in 1971, at a Billy Graham Crusade, he realized that he was only a Christian in name, not in heart. At that point, he surrendered his life to Jesus Christ and he and Judy began attending a Bible-teaching church.

An elder at FBC since its inception, Ken is a man who models servant leadership. He seeks to be obedient to Peter's command in 1 Peter 5:2-3, "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lord over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock..." He now serves as an elder and a small group coach. Ken's passion in the family of Faith Bible Church is small group ministry, because small groups encourage Christians to practice the "one anothers." "That means supporting each other during tough times. Small groups help people establish relationships and an identity with other Christians. In a large church, that can be difficult," Ken says. Small groups provide accountability and challenge people to grow spiritually, yet only about 65% of the adults at FBC participate in small group ministry.

Currently there are about 60 adult small groups at FBC, and Ken oversees groups on the northside. He visits a small group every week, supporting the leader while facilitating a discussion of the Bible passage. "Small groups are not merely for increasing head knowledge," Ken states. He knows firsthand the error of viewing small group ministry in this way because, until the 1970's, Ken was an "intellectual Christian." Ken has also traveled to Russia to teach in the Bible Institutes sponsored by FBC.



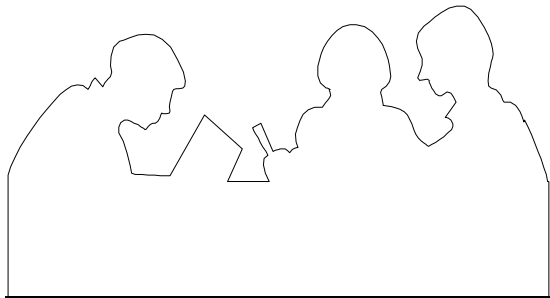


## Mark Graham

Mark became a Christian in high school. He was first involved in small group ministry in college, and after graduating, he and his wife Diana served in youth ministry. Mark and Diana are raising a family of four children. “The greatest challenge of parenting,” he says, “is trying to impart a knowledge of God that goes heart-deep, not mere head knowledge.” Mark is employed as an investment manager/stock broker with Smith Barney in Spokane.

At FBC, they have served in small group ministry for five years. Mark is now a small group coach and an elder. Mark states, “Praying for the leaders and their groups and seeing God’s work through the lives of others is very encouraging to us. The body of Christ functions best when the individuals are challenged and growing in their faith.”

This year Mark began serving as chairman of the FBC eldership and has traveled to Russia to teach in the Bible Institutes sponsored by FBC.



## Rocky Thompson

Rocky and Ada Thompson were married on March 22, 1964, before either of them had come to Christ. Thirty-five years ago Rocky was a self-consumed man hardened by the ways of the world and insensitive to his bride. The early part of their marriage was plagued by animosity. Then, when Ada gave birth to Tracy, the little girl was extremely ill and was not responding to the doctor’s care. So this hardened man got down on his knees and prayed, “God, if You’re really there, would you heal my daughter?” He turned to God because he remembered the Bible stories he had heard as a child. By God’s grace, Tracy’s health began improving the next day.

In gratitude, Rocky knelt again and confessed his sin, asking God to make sense out of his life. Never before had he experienced such peace. It is his greatest joy now to look back thirty years and see how God has blessed him with a deep love for Ada.

Within a couple of months after becoming a Christian, every one of his friends abandoned Rocky. They were simply tired of hearing about Christ. God was radically transforming Rocky from a hardened sinner into a child of God. The curious irony is that when Rocky told his wife he had become a Christian and no longer wanted his life of sin, she revealed to him that she had become a Christian six months earlier! Although Rocky lost all of his friends, he found the most enduring and devoted friend he’s ever known in his own wife.

Rocky is employed in management for Kaiser Aluminum and became an elder in 1990. He previously served as an elder overseer in Children’s and Family Ministry and now serves as a small group coach. Rocky and Ada also minister together in counseling married couples.

Rocky has been a part of the teams of men teaching at Bible Institutes that FBC has sponsored in Russia. His passion is to see the people at FBC grow in evangelistic outreach as well as in our walk with Christ. When every person in the church begins contributing to God’s work with the unique gifts God has given them—“so focused on Jesus Christ that our lives would be a testimony for Him”—then the world





## George Weber

George and Dorine have a very busy family life—five grown children ranging in age from 30 to 46 and 12 grandchildren. Three of their five married children live in Spokane and attend FBC. (Another married daughter lives in Seattle, and the eldest daughter is a pastor's wife in Vermont.) His family is very important to George. "It is precious to me that all my kids know Christ and walk with Him."

Before retiring a year ago, George was a professor (a "teaching Certified Public Accountant") for 37 years at Whitworth College. In ministry, he served as a church elder since 1960. He has also been a businessman, having owned and operated a swimming pool construction company for 26 years.

At Faith Bible Church, George has served as elder overseer of Asaph Ministry and as a small group leader for many of the senior members of the congregation. He has traveled to Russia to teach in the Bible Institutes sponsored by FBC.

George says the highlight of his week is meeting with other small group leaders and Larry Klock on Sundays. "I love to talk theology, and I love the Bible," he says.

George has come to understand that elders must do and be three things:

1. Do the work of ministry, which includes shepherding the flock (pastoring).
2. Do the hard work of oversight (which is much more than administration).
3. Lead the church by example, modeling a faithful life.

"FBC is a great joy to me," George says. "Never before have I seen God doing so much work."

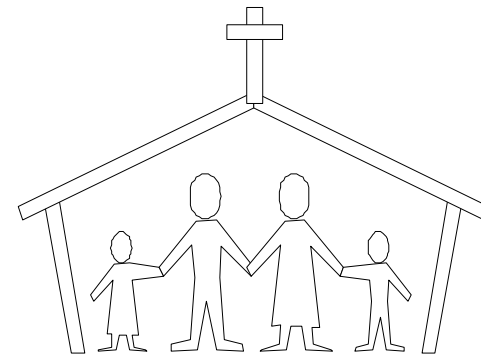


## Jim Campbell

Originally from Fargo, North Dakota, Jim was raised by a strong Christian mother. He gave his life to Jesus as a young child and was baptized at the age of eight. He met and married Helen while attending college, after which he did graduate studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He and Helen then moved to Spokane where he pursued certification in teaching at Eastern Washington University.

Jim taught at Northwest Christian School for a brief time before being hired by District 81 to teach at the junior high level. He then went to Rogers High School where he taught math and science for 19 years. In the mid 1970s, he began teaching computer science courses and, in the early '80s, he became the computer coordinator for Spokane Schools. Still active in teaching since his retirement, he has taught Traffic Safety Education. Jim and Helen raised three children and now have nine grandchildren.

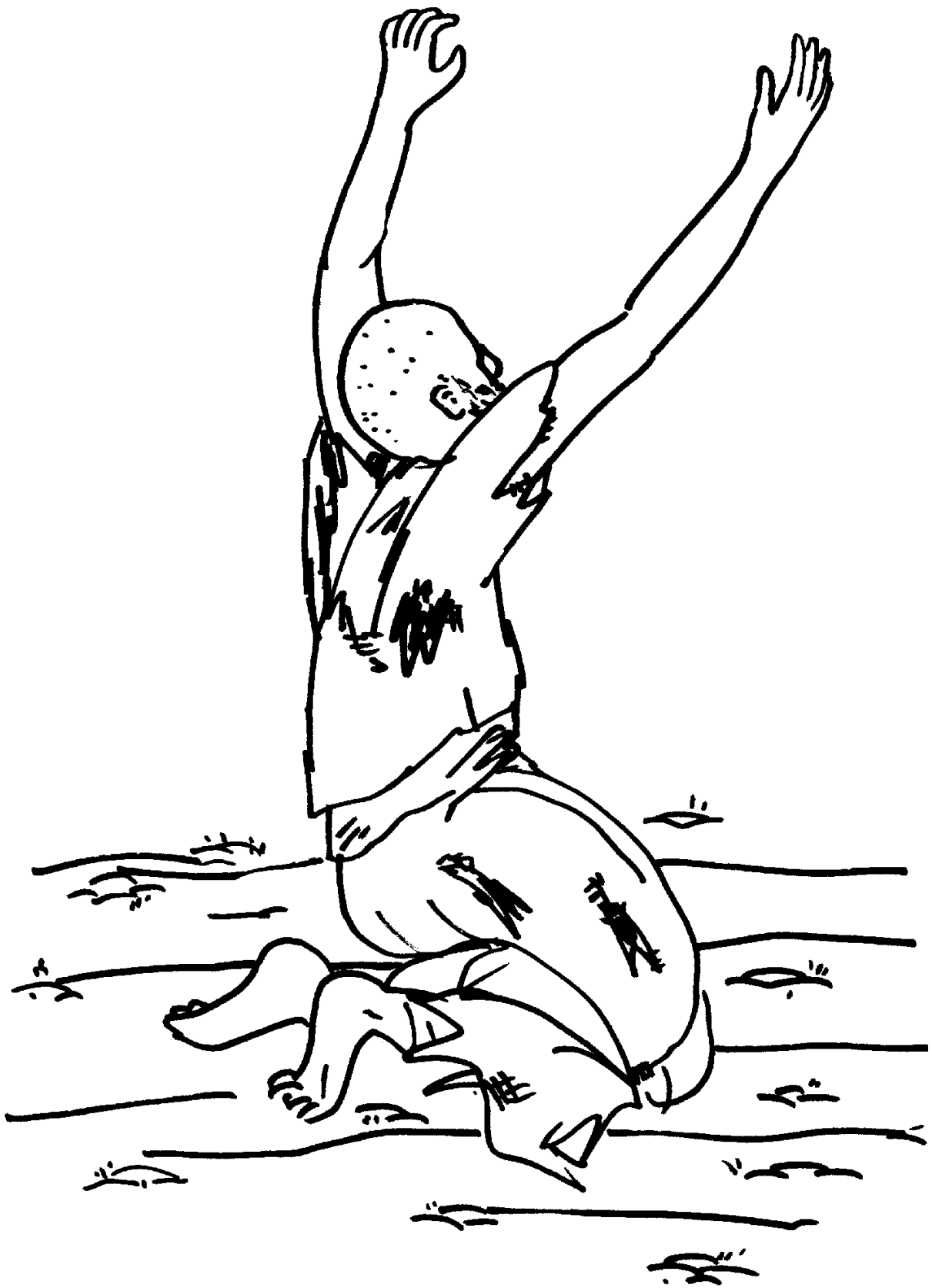
In ministry, Jim has served wherever there was a need and has been an elder for many years. In 1995, he and Helen began developing the parenting curriculum currently in use at FBC. They presently serve together in the parenting ministry, and together with John Smith, Sr., Jim oversees FBC's Children's and Family Ministry.



# Waiting for Harvest



# The Persecution of Job



# Elders Praying for the Sick



*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer Requests*

---

---

---

---

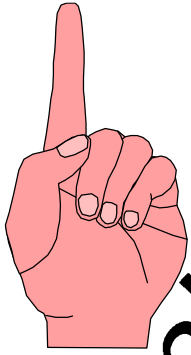
---

---

---

---

# Remember That Christ Is Coming



I Thessalonians 4:16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Acts 1:11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

John 14:1-4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Matthew 24:36

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Matthew 24:42

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Matthew 24:30

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Look up the Scripture references, and write the verses on the lines provided. Color the picture, and paste it on a larger piece of construction paper. Tie a bow with a small piece of yarn, and paste it on the finger at the top.

# *“Why Are We Persecuted and What Should We Do About It?”*

Many years before Jesus Christ was born, it was prophesied that He would be persecuted, and He was. In addition, Jesus said that all who follow Him will be persecuted for their belief. God is sovereign; therefore, we must trust in Him, and BE PATIENT when we are wronged and persecuted.

**Psalm 44:22** “Yet for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

**Job 2:10** “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”

Jesus Christ Himself told us that we would be persecuted. Somehow this persecution fits into His plan. We are to take comfort in knowing that God is sovereign and in control. He is to be glorified in all things.

**John 15:20b** “If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also.”

**Matt. 5:10-12** “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**Matt. 24:9** “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me.”

**Matt. 10:22** “All men will hate you because of Me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

**2 Tim. 3:12** “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

If our faith is real, we will endure persecution and rejoice in being worthy. To do so, we must be strong and endure. Many other believers have been persecuted, too.

**Matt. 13:20-21** “The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the Word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, he quickly falls away.”

**2 Cor. 4:8-12** “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake., so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it.”

**2 Cor. 12:9-10** “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**Acts 5:40b-41** “They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”

**Romans 8:18** “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

# *“Why Are We Persecuted and What Should We Do About It?”*

**Some who persecute us may repent. Who are we to judge? We have no way of knowing all that God intends for us or for those who persecute others. God is sovereign and in control. We need to let God be the judge for those who persecute us. We must have faith because He is a just and righteous God.**

**Acts 22:4** “I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison.”

**Gen. 50:20** “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

**2 Thess. 1:4-9** “Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God’s judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power.”

**Take comfort.**

**Romans 8:28-39** “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us...[nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

## Passage Review Questions

### James 5

What are rich people to do? Why? 5:1

What have the wealthy hoarded in the last days? 5:3

What has reached the ears of the Lord Almighty? 5:4

How have the rich lived on this earth? 5:5

“Be \_\_\_\_\_, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming.” 5:7a

What does the farmer do? 5:7b

For what does he patiently wait? 5:7b

“You too, be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ firm, because the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_ is near.” 5:8

What are we NOT to do to each other? 5:9a

What will happen if we do? 5:9b

Who is standing at the door? Who do you suppose this is? 5:9c

“...as an example of \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of \_\_\_\_\_,  
take the \_\_\_\_\_ who spoke in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
Lord.” 5:10

Who is considered blessed? 5:11a

What does this word mean?

The Lord is full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. 5:11c

Above all, what are we NOT to do? 5:12a

Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_ be  
\_\_\_\_\_, or you will be \_\_\_\_\_. 5:12b

What should one do when he is in trouble? 5:13a

What should one do if he is happy? 5:13b

What should one do if he is sick? 5:14

What will the Lord do for the sick? 5:15

What kind of sickness is this talking about? 5:16a

“The prayer of a \_\_\_\_\_ man is \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.” 5:16b

Who was a man just like us? 5:17a

What did he do? 5:17b

Were his prayers answered? 5:17-18

What should we remember when someone wanders from the  
truth but is then brought back by another? 5:19-20

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

# Patient Plantings Record Sheet

Keep a daily record of plant growth activity.

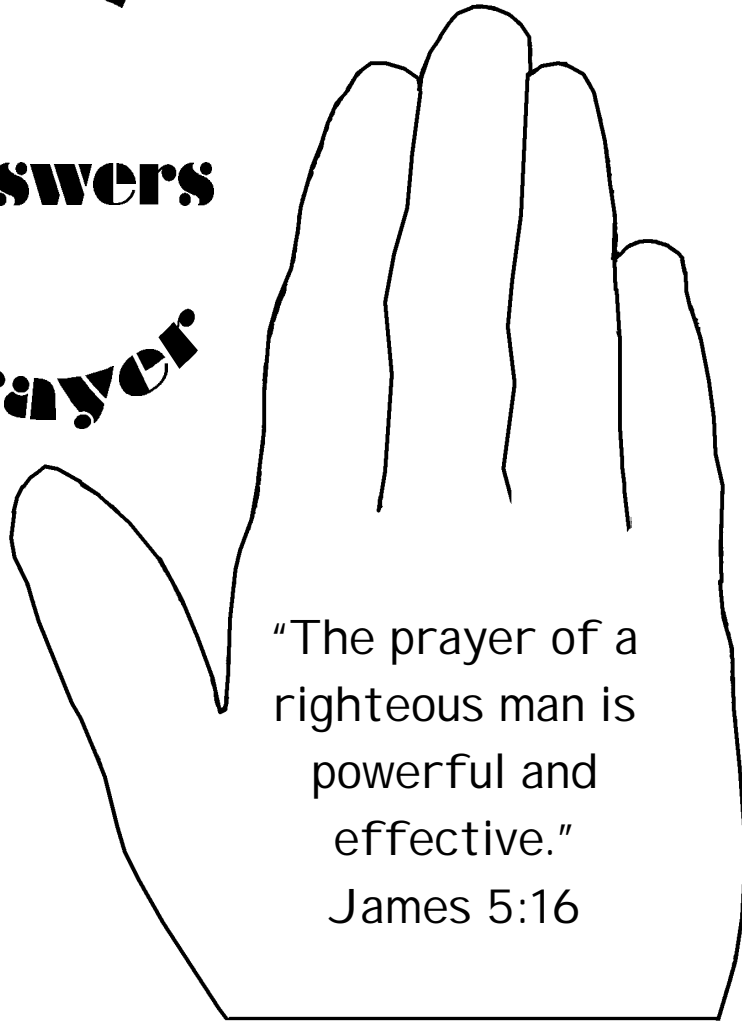
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12
Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18
Day 19	Day 20	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24
Day 25	Day 26	Day 27	Day 28	Day 29	Day 30

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8*

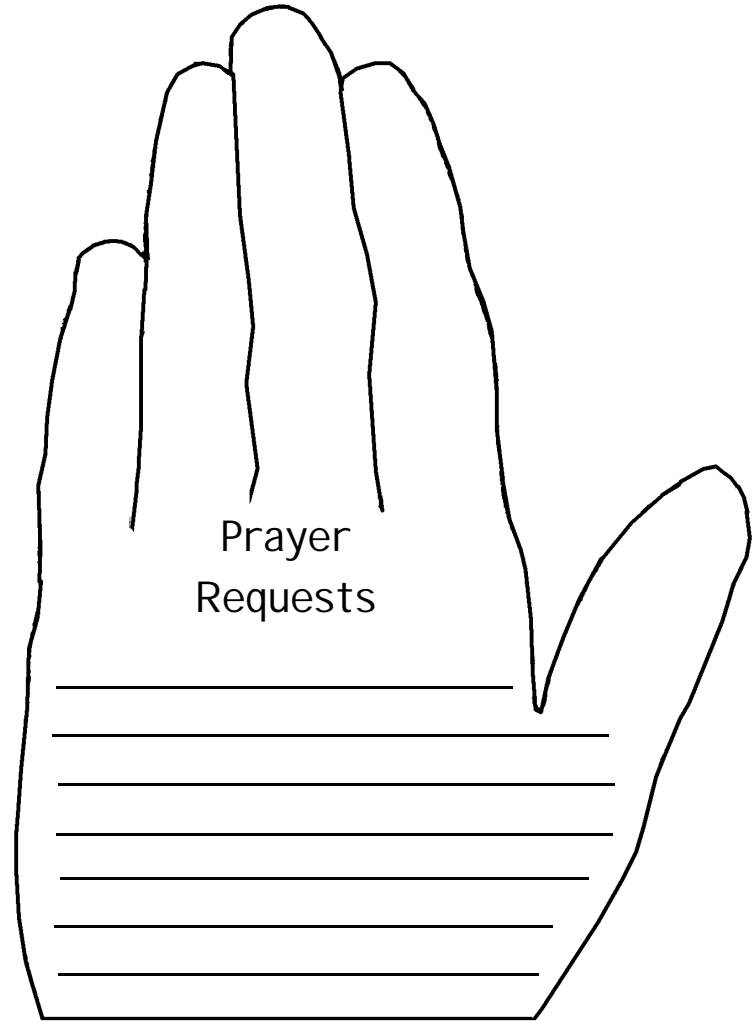
**God**

**Answers**

**Prayer**



FOLD LINE



Directions: Fold paper in half. Staple top fingers together with one staple. Cut out hands. Write out your prayer requests in the space provided. Cut out and paste the paper strip between bottom of hands to form a triangle so hands will stand up on a flat surface.

# The Persecution Punch

