

Group Guide 8 — Patient With You

God Is Patient • Rest Doesn't Rush

ICE BREAKERS AT THE TABLE

Step 1 — Pick This Week's Table Host. The host reads the questions (or calls on others) and keeps the conversation moving. Host reminder: don't rush. Give people time to think.

Opening Questions

- What is something you hate waiting on or for?
- Are you a slow-and-steady person or a get-it-done-now person?
- On a scale of 1–10, how patient are you when something takes longer than you expected?

TEACHING (LED BY TEACHER)

Big Idea: God is not slow. He is patient — moving with perfect wisdom, working in us while we wait.

Teaching Summary: Most of us don't mind God being powerful; we just want Him to be fast. But God often works slower than we want — not because He is absent or weak, but because He is patient. To say God is patient means He doesn't act impulsively or move prematurely; He moves with perfect wisdom, not human urgency. We want answers; God wants formation. What feels slow may actually be mercy. God is not wasting time — He is doing work we cannot yet see.

TABLE STUDY GUIDE

Scripture Focus

2 Peter 3:8–9 • John 21:15–17

Step 1: Read It Slowly

Have one person read 2 Peter 3:8–9. Have another read John 21:15–17 (Jesus restores Peter).

Take Note: What Do You Notice?

- How does Peter explain what looks like God being “slow”?
- Why is God patient, according to 2 Peter 3:9?
- How does Jesus treat Peter after his failure, and what does that show about God's patience?

Step 2: Take a Closer Look

Peter's point is that the issue is not God being slow — it is that we misunderstand time. What feels slow to us may actually be mercy, giving space for repentance and growth. And in John 21, Jesus doesn't give up on Peter after his denials; He patiently restores him.

Discuss Together

- What is the difference between God being slow and God being patient?
- We want answers; God wants formation. Why is that distinction so hard to accept?
- How does Jesus restoring Peter change the way you think about your own failures and slow growth?

Step 3: Make It Personal

Be Honest

- Where are you reading God's delay as God's disinterest?
- Who or what are you most impatient with right now — including yourself?
- Where do you need patience most this week?

Step 4: Reframe the Way We Think

Table Reflection

- What might God be forming in you through the very thing you wish He would hurry and fix?
- If God has been this patient with you, who is He asking you to be more patient with?
- How would your week look different if you believed God was still working in the waiting?

GOING DEEPER: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TEXT

Optional — for groups that want to dig further. Use this alongside the questions above; the table host can take as much or as little as time and the group's appetite allow.

Break Down the Verse

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

The Greek word for patient here is makrothumia — literally “long-tempered,” slow-burning, the opposite of a short fuse. Peter reframes what looks like divine slowness: it is not absence or weakness, but restraint aimed at rescue. God's “delay” is room for repentance — His patience is mercy in the form of time.

John 21 makes it personal: Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?” three times — once for each denial — not to shame him but to restore him. God's patience isn't passive waiting; it actively rebuilds what failure broke.

Wrestle With It

Provocative Questions

- We read delay as disinterest. What if the very thing you're begging God to speed up is the thing He is using to form you?
- Jesus restored Peter with a breakfast and a question, not a lecture. How does that reshape what you expect from God after you fail?
- Is God's patience with OTHERS ever frustrating to you? Like Jonah, do you secretly want Him quicker to judge and slower to forgive?

WRAP-UP QUESTION

As you think about this week:

- Fill in the blank: “God, help me trust You while I wait for ____.”
- What is one slow place where you want to stop demanding God move at your speed?
- Who could you show patience to this week, the way God has shown patience to you?

CLOSING PRAYER (OPTIONAL)

Invite someone to pray, asking God to slow the room's hearts and grow their trust in His timing.

God, slow our hearts down. Help us trust You when we don't see immediate movement. Where we are impatient, teach us to trust Your timing.