

## PATIENCE IS NOT WEAKNESS!

### THE PASSAGE: 10 Terrible Plagues

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| (1) The Nile turns <b>BLOOD RED</b><br>Exodus 7:14-24 | (2) <b>FROGS</b> everywhere<br>Exodus 7:25-8:15  |
| (3) <b>GNATS</b> everywhere<br>Exodus 8:16-19         | (4) <b>FLIES</b> everywhere<br>Exodus 8:20-32    |
| (5) <b>LIVESTOCK</b> decimated<br>Exodus 9:1-7        | (6) <b>BOILS</b> break out<br>Exodus 9:8-12      |
| (7) A deadly <b>HAILSTORM</b><br>Exodus 9:13-35       | (8) A <b>LOCUST</b> invasion<br>Exodus 10:1-18   |
| (9) Three days of <b>DARKNESS</b><br>Exodus 10:21-29  | (10) The angel of <b>DEATH</b><br>Exodus 11:1-10 |

### WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? What The Plagues Teach Us About God, His People, And His Enemies

- (1) God is not **MOCKED**  
Exodus 5:1-2 Galatians 6:7-8 Proverbs 1:24-32
- (2) There is only **ONE TRUE GOD**  
Exodus 12:12 1 Corinthians 10: 20-22 Deuteronomy 4:34 & 39 Isaiah 42:8  
Exodus 20:1-6 1 Timothy 2:5
- (3) God's **CALENDAR** & **CLOCK** are different from ours  
2 Peter 3:8 Hebrews 11:13 & 39-40 Genesis 15:8-16 Psalm 73
- (4) God's **PATIENCE** precedes his **JUDGMENT**  
So should ours! Ezekiel 33:11 Proverbs 1:22-23 2 Peter 3:8-10  
Revelation 3:14-22 Jonah 4:2 2 Timothy 2:24-28

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 24, 2016

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**1.** Whether you're a sports fan or not, chances are you've heard the Chargers might be moving to Los Angeles after being in San Diego for 55 years. What's your response to this news:

- Let 'em go
- I'll love 'em to the end
- What's a "Charger"?
- Can we turn Qualcomm into a city park?
- I would prefer to replace them with the following team and sport:
- Other

**2.** This week we heard about the importance of patience. Rate the following situations from least to the most (using the number system 1 through 6) that cause you to be impatient:

- \_\_\_ a slow driver in the fast lane
- \_\_\_ a person paying with exact change
- \_\_\_ a long voicemail message
- \_\_\_ calling your internet service provider
- \_\_\_ traffic
- \_\_\_ other

**3.** Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**1.** This week we heard that as followers of Jesus we should also have the same love, kindness and patience God has with us toward those that seem to have something against us or God. Putting this into action can be no small challenge. As you read the following verses, jot down how they may help you not fall into "quick judgment" but instead extend the hope of God's love and patience in these difficult situations?

**1 Peter 4:8** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

**Galatians 6:1-5** New International Version (NIV)

*Doing Good to All*

<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup> for each one should carry their own load.

**James 5:20** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Looking back at these verses, which one is potentially most helpful to you in regards to your motives, actions and patience?

**2.** The enemy wants to fool us into thinking that God is not working or paying attention when we're being called to be "patient" and let God work. The reality is God has a way of meeting us where we are. What encouragement do you find in the following passages for continuing to trust and follow God even when the going gets tough?

**Matthew 11:28-30** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4** New International Version (NIV)

*Praise to the God of All Comfort*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

**2 Corinthians 1:8-11** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, <sup>11</sup> as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Can you think of any times in your life when you experienced the rest, comfort or hope talked about in these verses?

**3.** Isaiah 40 is one of the best chapters in the Bible for gaining a perspective on God's power because the passage compares it to things we can understand. Read through the verses below and write down all it says about how big and powerful God is.

**Isaiah 40:7-11** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

**Isaiah 40:21-24** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

<sup>22</sup> He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,  
and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,  
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

<sup>23</sup> He brings princes to naught  
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

<sup>24</sup> No sooner are they planted,  
no sooner are they sown,  
no sooner do they take root in the ground,  
than he blows on them and they wither,  
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

**Isaiah 40:28-31** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

In what ways can a greater understanding of God's absolute power help you to trust him and his perfect timing more?

## TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what's most important for you to remember?

### Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

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Prayer Requests:

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