

## Are You Ever Impatient? 1 Corinthians 13:4 Sermon Discussion Leader Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To learn how to be more patient, as an expression of love.

**Sermon Refresher:** Keith continued our series through 1 Corinthians 13. This week he focused on the truth that love is patient.

**Icebreaker:** Can you think of a time in which you were frustrated by an interruption or delay that actually turned out for your benefit?

### Discussion:

#### Read:

[1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#)

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1. Fundamentally, what do you think makes us impatient?
2. Keith quoted the following definition of patience from John Piper: "Patience is the capacity to wait without murmuring and disillusionment—to wait in the unplanned places and endure the unplanned pace." What are some of the situations in your own life when you find it most difficult to be patient? How do those circumstances frustrate your plans or expectations?

#### Read:

[Colossians 1:9, 11](#)

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives... <sup>11</sup> being

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strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience....

3. According to Paul, what is that we need to develop patience?
4. How does being patient actually demonstrate love to someone?
5. Keith recalled the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis:
  - Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.
  - He initially landed on his feet, managing the household of a prominent official in Egypt.
  - But the official's wife accused him of something he didn't do, landing him in prison.
  - A fellow prisoner who is freed has the power to help him but doesn't.
  - But God is with Joseph, and he's eventually freed from prison and put in charge of Egypt's agriculture ahead of a devastating famine.
  - Joseph's brothers end up coming to him for food. Amazingly, Joseph treats them with kindness.

## Read:

### [Genesis 50:19-21](#)

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Where did Joseph get the ability to be patient and kind to his brothers after he had been mistreated so badly? How can that encourage us to do the same?

6. God is repeatedly described in the Old Testament as being "slow to anger," i.e., he shows great patience. And Peter writes this in 2 Peter 3:15: "Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation." How might the Lord's patience toward us also motivate us to be patient with others?

## Sharing and Prayer:

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Have group members briefly identify one situation or area in their life in which they need patience and would like someone to pray for. Have each person pray for another member of the group. Close by praying that God would help us remember his patience toward us and that he's working for our good in every circumstance.