

# YEAR OF GROWTH

## PATIENCE WEEK 3

### EXAMPLES

#### New Testament:

There are many examples of men and women of patience in the New Testament. Of course, Jesus is the greatest example of all. We will focus on several who help us to understand the nature and action of joyful endurance.

#### Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe patience. Think back over the previous lessons. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of patience and prepare to explore Bible examples.

#### Day Two – Monday

##### 2 Peter 3:1-10

Peter used an Old Testament example to teach a New Testament truth. God – the notable example of patience in the Old Testament – was longsuffering with the wicked world leading up to the Flood. The same God is also longsuffering toward the wickedness in the present age. The reason for His patience: He desires that all should come to repentance. Just as the Flood came and destroyed the world by water, it is a fact that Jesus will return and destroy the world with fire. Yet, until that day, the Lord remains patient with man.

#### Day Three – Tuesday

##### Romans 2:1-6

The patience of God is extended to individual sinners just as it is to the world. In spite of hard hearts that disobey God and act hypocritically, God demonstrates goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering. This is an example of patience that all would do well to imitate.

#### Day Four – Wednesday

##### Luke 23:32-34

There is no greater example of patience than Jesus. He left the glory of Heaven to come into this world for the benefit of men. Yet His own creation despised Him, rejected Him, abused Him, and crucified Him. They ignored all the good that he had done. They dismissed all the truth He had

taught. They treated Him as a criminal and inflicted the most agonizing suffering and death upon Him. Still, in the midst of His agony He prayed, "Father, forgive them." He patiently endured the worst of humanity simply to save their lost souls.

Day Five – Thursday

**1 Timothy 1:12-17**

Jesus demonstrated great patience in the life of Paul. Despite his sinful attacks upon the church, Jesus showed him mercy. In spite of his ignorant blasphemy, Jesus offered him grace. Even though Paul considered himself the chief of sinners, Jesus granted him forgiveness. Paul stated that the longsuffering shown to him by Jesus was designed as a pattern for all to learn from and to follow. If Jesus could pardon Paul, He can save anyone!

Day Six – Friday

**Romans 9:1-5**

Paul manifested great patience toward his Jewish brethren who continued to reject the Gospel of Christ. Though they treated Paul terribly – defaming, persecuting, and arresting him – he continued to preach to them, offering them forgiveness and salvation. Though they continued to blaspheme Jesus and attack the church, Paul loved them and sacrificed greatly to serve and teach them. Though they saw him as an enemy, Paul continued to act as a friend.

Day Seven – Saturday

**Revelation 2:1-7**

The church at Ephesus had shown patience by enduring hardship and persecution. In turn, the Lord showed patience toward them. Despite the many good things that they did, this congregation had left its first love. Jesus did not punish them immediately by removing their candlestick. Instead, He patiently warned them and encouraged them to repent.