

OUTLINE & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PATIENCE IN AN AGE OF URGENCY

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PSALM 37:1-11

The _____ of _____

The _____ of _____

The _____ of _____

The _____ of _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

ICEBREAKER: What is the longest you've ever waited in line for something? Was it worth it?

1. Read Psalm 37:1-11 out loud. Give everyone 2-3 minutes on their own to jot down as many observations and questions as they can about the passage. Go around the group and have each person share an observation and discuss it.

2. Notice the repeating command "do not fret" (Psalm 37:1, 7, 8). What does it mean to fret? Why would it be something we're tempted to do? Why should we not do it?

3. There is such a thing as righteous anger, so why does verse 8 say anger "leads only evil"? The sermon describes four types of impatience: irritability, pushiness, impatience with God, and cultural outrage. Which of those hits closest to home for you personally, and why?

4. The sermon used the illustration of a telescope. One end makes evil seem huge. One end makes it seem puny. What would it look like for you to flip the telescope around this week?

5. How can you tell the difference between patience and passivity?

6. The sermon compares long-game living to compound investing—boring in the short term, remarkable over decades. Where are you investing in a long-term payout in your life? Where are you tempted to cash out early on something that needs more time?

7. The sermon asks: What would it look like to plan at the scale of centuries? As a group, list as many things as you can think of that will still matter in 100 years.

8. Who in your life is playing the long game well? What could you learn from watching them?

Is there a person or situation you've been "fretting" about—stoking that fire regularly? What would it mean to stop tending it?

PRAYER PROMPT: What is one long term investment (in a relationship, a person, an institution, a cause, a community, etc.) you are making in your life? Pray for each other to have patience for the long game and for their investment to bear fruit.