

**"Straight Up" – April 27th**  
**"Wait"**

**Big Idea: "While I Wait, God is working"**

James finishes his book by going back to the foundation of following Christ. As we follow we are to "be patient." Jesus talks about it in John 15 when he says that He is the Vine and we are the branches. His encouragement is to remain in Him. This waiting and remaining can be difficult and challenging. James gives us three illustrations of those who wait and are blessed. We can wait because we know God is always with us and he is working in us. We can encourage each other with this: While we wait, God is working.

**Open it:** We are talking about patience so let's talk frustrating things. When and where do you tend to lose your patience? When and where do you think people lose patience with you?

**Dig It: Read James 5:7-12**

1. James mentions the farmer, the prophets, and Job. How are these three examples of patience? What are some of the specific aspects of the three that you find encouraging?
2. In the sermon we mentioned John 15 and Jesus encouraging us to remain in Him. In your words what does it mean to remain?
3. In John 15:9 we are told that God looks at us through the eyes of a loving father. In James 5:11 we are reminded that the Lord is full of compassion and mercy. How does that help you while you wait? Is that hard to accept?
4. Look at verse 9 and verse 12. How difficult is it to watch our words while we wait?

**Reflect on it:**

1. Have you ever had one of those "Waldo" moments when you had a hard time finding God in a time of trial? Did you finally see Him?
2. In what area of your life are you having a hard time waiting and being patient?

**Do It:**

1. How can you remain in Him this week while you wait?
2. Pray as a group for God to grow us and help us as we "Wait."

