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**Wednesdays// 7:00 pm**

## **The Fruit of the Spirit**

**Session Four  
The Fruit of Patience**

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### The Fruit of Patience

**Gal 5:22-23 (NIV):** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**2 Peter 3:9 (NIV):** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**Neh. 9:16-21, 28, 30-31 (NIV)** But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. <sup>17</sup> They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, <sup>18</sup> even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies.

<sup>19</sup> Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. <sup>20</sup> You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. <sup>21</sup> For forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time.

For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. <sup>31</sup> But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

**Prov. 15:18 (NIV):** A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

**1 Thess. 5:14:** Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

### Small Group Interaction:

1. In your own words, define patience.
2. In what way(s) has God been patient with you?
3. Can you give an example of how the fruit of patience has worked in your own life and grown in you over the years?
4. What advice would you give to someone who is lacking in patience and needs to develop it more in a particular area? How does one acquire patience?