



/add-verbs/

discussion questions

Add Verbs questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

In the Bible, “Christian” is a noun, and nouns need verbs. To be authentically Christian you must ADD VERBS to your faith. Let’s search for verbs to add to our faith, starting in the book of James.

- 1** This whole series has been tied to the idea of adding verbs. Rick asked, “What is faith supposed to do when there’s nothing you can do”? **Read James 5:7-11.** At first glance, how is “wait” different than the other verbs we’ve talked about in this series? Would you describe waiting as an enjoyable verb?
- 2** We suffer from “wait loss.” Our culture in particular bows down to the god of “Now.” When you look at your day to day life, how has the pace of this world influenced your willingness to wait for things? In particular, how has developing technology affected your level of patience?
- 3** God specializes in “wait gain.” Our Father in heaven will allow temporary pain for eternal gain. He often slow cooks instead of microwaves. **Read James 1:3-4;** compare with **Romans 5:3-4.** What do these passages teach us about the process of spiritual growth?
- 4** Wait actively. Despite our perception, wait is not a passive verb. Actively waiting means doing what you can while trusting God to do what you can’t. **Re-read James 5:7** - compare with **Psalm 37:7a.** When you’re dependent on things outside your control, what are things you can do as you wait on the Lord?
- 5** Wait purposefully. **Listen to James 5:10** paraphrased by the Message: “*Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God.*” The prophets never quit on God because they knew God’s love would never quit on them. **Read Psalm 33:20-22.** How can waiting purposefully shift our perspective from twiddling our thumbs to lifting hands in worship and prayer?
- 6** Wait expectantly. **Read Romans 8:24-25.** Rick said, We must grow in our capacity to interpret life through the lens of hope. **Re-read James 5:7a.** Our hope is built on the idea that Jesus’ return will be worth the wait. So what does it mean to wait expectantly for Jesus to return? How could living an expectant life change us at work or at home? How would it impact the way we talk to people about Jesus?