

**1 Peter 2:20-24: Patience (Galatians 5:22)**

Patience in the New Testament: *long-suffering, forbearance and perseverance*

As we seek to partner with the Spirit to make room for His fruit to grow, consider:

- In what ways do other people have to be patient with you?
- In what situations are you most likely to become frustrated with others? How can you cultivate this aspect of the fruit of the Spirit in these situations?
- If you had to teach on forgiveness, what Bible passages would you use and are there any reasons it's ok not to forgive?

*Additional Questions – choose 2-3 to further your thinking.*

- What part of the sermon stood out as important to you this week? Why?
- Read Matthew 18:21-35. Jesus had just been talking about forgiveness when Peter approached him (v21). What had Peter been wondering as he listened to Jesus?
- The Rabbis taught that a repeated sin should be forgiven three times. Do you find Jesus' answer shocking? If so, why? If not, why not?
- The parable in vv.23-35 is Jesus' expanded reply to Peter's question. What was the first servant's problem and how would you describe the solution to his problem?
- How does the master illustrate God's patience and forgiveness towards us?
- How does the way the first servant was treated contrast with the way he treats his fellow servant (vv.28-30)? Why do you think this is considering what he has received?
- If we fail to treat others with patience and forgiveness, how will God treat us (vv.34-35)? Why do you think his judgement is so harsh?
- How can a deep appreciation for God's patience and forgiveness help you with people we find it hard to forgive who do the same thing wrong over and over?
- How does Psalm 103:8-10 offer us some comfort as we wrestle with those who we find it hard to forgive?
- Ask the God who has been so patient with you to help you be patient with others too. Name people specifically before him and ask him to help you change.