Endurance: Trusting God While Waiting for Prodigal Children



A 5-day Bible study on trusting God's faithfulness as we patiently endure the wait for prodigal children's return.





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Introduction

Endurance is a powerful theme in the Bible, closely tied to faith, hope, and trust in God's timing and sovereignty. When we pray for our prodigal children, the waiting period can be filled with anxiety, frustration, and sometimes despair. Yet, God calls us to *endure*, to keep trusting Him even when we don't see immediate answers or change.

As parents or loved ones of prodigal children, our journey often includes wrestling with doubts and emotions while anchoring ourselves in God's promises. The Bible offers rich encouragement for this endurance journey. Scripture does not overlook the pain of separation or the weight of waiting; rather, it invites us into God's strength and hope which sustains us day by day.

In this 5-day study, we will explore biblical stories and truths about endurance, patience, and trust in God's redeeming power. Reflecting on examples like the father in the prodigal son parable and trusting the Lord's timing in His future restoration gives us courage. Together, we will discover how to maintain faithfulness, pray with hope, and foster a resilient trust that God is working even when we cannot see the outcome.









Day 1: W The Heart of Endurance









Day 1: W The Heart of Endurance

Your Verse

James 1:2-4 - "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 5:3 "We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance."
- Hebrews 12:1 "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."







Day 1: W The Heart of Endurance

Devotional: Joy and Growth Through Enduring Trials

Endurance often feels like an uphill battle when waiting for a prodigal child to return. Trials and unanswered questions weigh heavy on our hearts. Yet, the Bible encourages us to reframe our perspective, seeing these trials as opportunities for growth. *James 1:2–4* reminds us that perseverance strengthens our faith, molding our character and hope.

Endurance isn't passive waiting; it's active trust in God's refining work in us and in our loved ones. By embracing trials with a spirit of joy—though challenging—we open ourselves to God's transforming grace. Our waiting period becomes more than just hope for change; it is a season of deeper relationship with God who sees and cares deeply.

Take heart today. The longer endurance may seem, the more God is at work. Trusting God's timing renews our strength and keeps our faith unwavering even in silence and pain.







Day 1: 🥰 The Heart of Endurance

Reflect and Apply

1.	How have past trials strengthened your faith or character?
	What does it mean to you to 'consider it pure joy' in difficult circumstances?
3.	In what ways can you actively trust God today despite uncertainty?







Day 1: 🥰 The Heart of Endurance

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time you endured a difficult season and how God used it.
	List ways waiting has challenged your faith and ways it has strengthened it.
	Journal a prayer asking God to cultivate endurance and trust in your heart.







Day 1: 🥰 The Heart of Endurance

Prayer for Today

Father God, thank You for teaching me that endurance through trials produces perseverance and deepens faith. Help me to find joy in this difficult season of waiting. Strengthen my heart to trust You fully, even when I cannot see the outcome. Please surround my prodigal child with Your grace and draw them back to You. Fill me with hope and peace that comes only from You. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*

















Your Verse

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Supporting Scriptures

- Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength."
- Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."







Devotional: Finding Strength in God's Perfect Timing

Waiting for our prodigal children to return can often feel endless. We might wish for quicker answers or clearer signs. Yet Scripture teaches us that **God's timing is perfect**. *Ecclesiastes 3:1* reminds us that every season in life has its divine purpose, even confusing or painful ones.

Trusting in God's timeline does not mean passive resignation, but active hope and strength in Him. *Isaiah 40:31* encourages us: those who hope in the Lord will find renewed strength to continue the journey. Meanwhile, *Psalm 27:14* urges us to be courageous in waiting, holding fast to the assurance that God is working behind the scenes.

Today, anchor your heart in the truth that God's plan and timing surpass all human understanding. He is faithfully weaving a story of redemption for your child, your family, and yourself — so hold on with hope.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What feelings arise when you think about God's timing in your situation?
2.	How can you cultivate patience while waiting on God's promises?
	In what ways can you find strength and courage today through hope in God?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe what trusting God's timing looks like in your daily life.
	Write about moments when waiting led to a greater blessing or understanding.
3.	Journal a prayer asking God to renew your strength and courage for today.







Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You that You hold every season in Your hand. Help me to trust Your perfect timing above my own plans and feelings. Renew my strength today and fill me with courage as I wait. Please work powerfully in the life of my child and in my heart. Teach me patience and hope that I may glorify You even in the waiting. *Amen.*

















Day 3: The Father's Unfailing Love

Your Verse

Luke 15:20 – "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 103:13 "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him."
- Romans 8:38–39 "Nothing can separate us from the love of God..."







Day 3: The Father's Unfailing Love

Devotional: God's Compassion: A Father Running to His Child

One of the most encouraging stories for those waiting on prodigal children is the parable of the lost son in **Luke 15**. The father's response—running to embrace his son even while he was still far off—reveals the depth of God's *unfailing love* and readiness to restore.

We can find hope knowing that God's compassion is relentless. *Psalm 103:13* describes a tender love that never tires or gives up. Similarly, *Romans 8:38–39* promises that nothing can separate us or our loved ones from God's great love.

As you endure, remember God is already moving in your child's life even if you cannot see it. This gives us confidence to keep praying, loving, and hoping. God's heart beats for the return and restoration of every lost soul.







Day 3: 💞 The Father's Unfailing Love

Reflect and Apply

	How does the father's response in the parable influence your hope for your child?
2.	What does God's compassion mean for your current struggles?
3.	How can you reflect God's unfailing love in your actions today?







Day 3: 💞 The Father's Unfailing Love

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about what it means to you that God runs to meet your child.
2.	Describe your feelings about God's unfailing love during your waiting season.
3.	Journal a prayer asking God to fill you with compassion and hope.







Day 3: 💞 The Father's Unfailing Love

Prayer for Today

Compassionate Father, thank You for Your unfailing, relentless love that reaches my child even now. Teach me to wait with hope and to mirror Your compassion to those around me. Strengthen my heart in this season so I can love well and pray faithfully. May Your grace sustain all of us until the day of joyful restoration. *In Jesus' loving name, Amen.*















Your Verse

Proverbs 4:23 – "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Supporting Scriptures

- Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything... the peace of God will guard your hearts."
- Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast."







Devotional: Choosing Peace: Guarding Your Heart Amid Pain

Waiting for a prodigal child can stir a storm of emotions—fear, anger, doubt—that threaten our peace. **Proverbs 4:23** gives wise counsel to guard our hearts carefully because it is the wellspring of life.

We guard our hearts by surrendering anxieties to God through prayer, as encouraged in *Philippians 4:6–7*. God's peace then serves as a protective shield, calming turbulent thoughts and feelings. Furthermore, *Isaiah 26:3* promises perfect peace to those who keep their minds fixed on God.

Guarding your heart means choosing hope and trust over despair daily. It means engaging in God's Word, fellowship, and prayer, renewing your soul as you persevere. Today, invite God's peace to guard your heart while you continue to wait expectantly.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What are the biggest challenges to guarding your heart right now?
2.	How can you practically release anxiety and embrace God's peace?
3.	What spiritual disciplines help you stay steadfast in this waiting season?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about moments when God's peace has protected your heart.
2.	List ways you can guard your heart daily in the waiting.
3.	Journal a prayer surrendering your worries and inviting God's peace.







Prayer for Today

Lord, my Protector, help me to guard my heart amidst the waves of worry and pain. Calm my anxious thoughts and fill me with Your perfect peace that surpasses understanding. Strengthen my mind and spirit to remain steadfast in You. Teach me to trust even on the hardest days and to rest in Your quiet presence. *Thank You for Your unfailing love and peace.* Amen.









Day 5: Pope in Restoration









Your Verse

Joel 2:25 - "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future."
- Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."







Devotional: Embracing Hope in God's Restoration

Endurance points us toward **hope**—hope that God is actively restoring what has been lost. *Joel 2:25* offers a powerful promise: God will repay the years stolen by hardship or brokenness, including the years lost in the life of a prodigal child.

God's plans for us and our families are filled with hope and a future, as *Jeremiah 29:11* assures. This hope empowers us to hold onto joy and peace, trusting God's faithful promises even through waiting, as stated in *Romans 15:13*.

As this study closes, remember that God is a God of restoration and new beginnings. He is writing a beautiful story for your family, one that includes redemption, reunion, and overflowing grace. Keep the faith, cherish the hope, and anticipate the joy ahead.







Reflect and Apply

How does the promise of restoration shape your view of the future?
What hope can you hold onto today, even if the situation feels bleak?
How can joy and peace coexist with the pain of waiting?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a letter of hope and encouragement to your prodigal child.
2.	Describe what restoration looks like for your family's future.
3.	Journal a prayer of trust, asking God to fill you with joy and peace.







Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for the hope of restoration and new beginnings. Help me to trust Your promises and hold onto joy and peace, even in waiting. Renew my spirit and fill my heart with unwavering hope for my child's return. May Your grace restore what has been lost and bring healing to our family. I place my confidence in You alone. *Amen.* 🗸 🛠 🔊







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