Small Group Questions

Waiting for Rain: James 5:7-12

1. James told the Christians to stop grumbling against each other. How does understanding God's mercy to us enable us to be more patient with others?

2. Jesus as Judge sounds ominous. Why do believers need not fear him, but can look forward to his return?

3. How does knowing that the Judge will set all things right, putting an end to suffering and evil, help us endure times of suffering?

4. The recipients of James' letter were familiar with the stories of the prophets and Job, and therefore understood his references to them. How can being familiar with the Old Testament be helpful to us today, especially when we are in times of struggle?

5. Share an example of God working in your life during a time of perseverance. Did you experience a growth in spiritual maturity? (James 1:2-4)

6. What are the advantages of lamenting in community, rather than just by ourselves?

7. The psalmists direct their complaints to God? Why is it acceptable to speak to God this way? Have you ever used the psalms as a vocabulary for prayer?