

# Curriculum



## ***Nine Words***

Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-Control

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A sample study from the *Nine Words* volume begins on the following page.

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**LEARN: Overview**

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit [www.B-B-T.org](http://www.B-B-T.org).

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**Curriculum: The *BBT 1-2-3™* Format**

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1. Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2. Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3. Recap – Encourages community and application

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**LIVE: Sample *Nine Words***

This [BBT](#) volume of curriculum reveals the fruit of God’s Holy Spirit that helps us live by faith and change us by His power.

1. **Love**
  2. **Joy**
  3. **Peace**
  4. **Patience**
  5. **Kindness**
  6. **Goodness**
  7. **Faithfulness**
  8. **Gentleness**
  9. **Self-Control**
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**LEAD: [Start a small-group Bible study](#)**

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)

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## PRAYERS



## LEARN

**A Virtue**

John had been sitting in traffic longer than usual. He was quite late already, but at least he was almost there. The office was in a complex with a large, busy parking lot. As he finally pulled into the lot, he realized it, too, was backed up with traffic. As he approached an intersection of the lot where cross-traffic is meant to flow, he stopped short of the blocked traffic ahead, allowing the cross-traffic lane to pass through. He waited patiently for the cars ahead to clear while the drivers who crossed in front of him seemed grateful for the break to get through. However, the car behind him was not so patient and after a couple of minutes, quickly swerved out of line, darting in front of John's car and cutting off the cross-traffic, stopping everyone's progress once again. A child once said, "Patience means you have to wait a lot." It isn't easy to wait. It's much easier to maintain control of our agendas, checking the boxes, and moving on to the next tasks on our lists.

Think about the disciples of Jesus – right there with Him in the flesh. Yet, even they were conflicted between patiently waiting for Jesus' agenda and furthering their own. Peter, as an example, shows signs of greatness leading the disciples and yet remarkable weakness as he fails Jesus and even denies Him (See [Mark 14:66-72](#)). Once again, Peter shows great insight into who Jesus is, yet then shows a huge gap in understanding when he rebukes Jesus (See [Mark 8:27-33](#)). Remarkably, Jesus stands by Peter. He doesn't give up on him or cast him out of the followers. Jesus is constant; patient with Peter always.

**A Gift**

The Spirit of God brings forth fruit in us even when we fail. Our human instinct is not to be patient with those who hurt us, with the bosses who overlook us, with the parent who doesn't recognize our love, and with the neighbor who shuns us. Bearing with people who mistreat us and forgiving them are not natural human responses. Yet, even in our failure of these hard lessons, God is growing His patience in us. We can't do these things without the Spirit of God in our lives. However, with Him, we can grow more patient and forgiving because God is patient and forgiving. It is not of our power but a gift of His grace.



## LIVE

**Discussion questions:** Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Philippians 3:17-21](#). Why does your citizenship in heaven matter?
2. Read [Hebrews 6:9-12](#). Why do you work the way you do?
3. Read [Colossians 3:12-14](#). How do you bear with others, especially when short-comings and failures are apparent?
4. Read [1 Thessalonians 5:15-18](#). How can being thankful for and aware of your blessings help you stay patient?
5. Read [Romans 8:28-30](#). When have you had to set aside your timetable and plans and trust that God would make "all things work together for good"?

**Application Question:** How will you remain patient even when your hardest work seems to be yielding nothing?



## PRAYERS

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**



**PRAYERS**

**Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests**

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**LEARN**

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.

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**LIVE**

**Discussion Questions:** Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

**1) Read [Philippians 3:17-21](#). Why does your citizenship in heaven matter?**



Knowing your eternal destination helps you live differently from how the world lives.



The world drives us to complete burnout as we frantically try to gain all we can. We worry that we won't have enough goods, pleasures, or achievements based on the world's standards. Yet, God assures us that there is a life to come that is more important *and* more rewarding. Knowing life with God is eternal makes patience easier to grasp and achieve if we can maintain that eternal perspective.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You might ask, "What helps you have patience when things don't work out as you hoped?"

**Notes:**

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**2) Read [Hebrews 6:9-12](#). Why do you work the way you do?**



When you know that God rewards faithfulness, you can labor now, knowing that in the end, He will reward all work done for Him.



Even when the reward for our work is not apparent immediately or seems too long in coming, we can afford to be patient because we know this life is not the end. God is working in our lives bringing about His kingdom – though it is on His time and with His ways. Eternity far surpasses the here and now, and because we know the purposes of God will prevail in the end it helps us to remember we have something of worth for which to work.

**Notes:**

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**3) Read [Colossians 3:12-14](#). How do you bear with others, especially when short-comings and failures are apparent?**



Knowing and trusting God moves you to a deeper level of patience as you realize you are still growing in the Lord, and others around you are too.



Patience means learning to be patient with others, even to the point of forgiveness. Just as God is patient with us and our failures, so too does God desire us to be patient with our difficult co-worker, our rebellious child, our opinionated boss, and all others with whom we come in contact – even strangers. Coming to terms with our failures and shortcomings increases our patience with others' shortcomings and failures.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You might ask, “Can you describe a time when you were able to be patient with someone because you recognized a similar struggle in them that you’ve experienced?”

**Notes:**

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**4) Read [1 Thessalonians 5:15-18](#). How can being thankful for and aware of your blessings help you stay patient?**



If you rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances, even during hardships, you will be better able to maintain a patient perspective and avoid “repaying evil for evil”.



God does not cause our suffering, but He can and does use it to grow our patience and draw us closer to Him. While hardships in life can be painful lessons, they are also useful for growing in the fruit of the Spirit. When we can endure personal suffering and still look God in the eye with a heart full of thanksgiving and joy, that is generated only by the Holy Spirit.

**Notes:**

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**5) Read [Romans 8:28-30](#). When have you had to set aside your timetable and plans and trust that God would make “all things work together for good”?**



It is a remarkable thing to live in the knowledge that God can and does work His good in all things.



We like results and to see the fruits of our labors. Yet sometimes, our hardest work for God reveals nothing. We stand up for truth, we work hard, and still, the powers of evil seem to prevail. Sometimes we are even attacked regardless of how hard we try to avoid conflict. Nevertheless, the farther we walk with God, the more He will draw us near, and we will grow in the Spirit, understanding God is in control and trust Him to provide.



If time permits, you might ask, “When has failure set you up for greater success later?”

**Notes:**

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Application Question: How will you remain patient even when your hardest work seems to be yielding nothing?



**PRAYERS**

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**

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**LEAD**

**Ask Yourself:** How am I reflecting my spiritual maturity through the Spirit's work in my life, by being patient even through failures, rejections, and sufferings?



**PRAYERS**

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**ROADMAP**

This [BBT](#) volume of curriculum reveals the fruit of God’s Holy Spirit that helps us live by faith and change us by His power. This lesson reveals the Spirit’s gift of patience as we wait, bear with one another, and faithfully endure together.



**LEARN**

The writer of Hebrews offers assurance that in time, God rewards all diligent work, even if it does not seem to be paying off in the here and now. The Colossians are to have peace and patience between themselves by being ready to forgive. The Thessalonians are told to persist in being patient with one another because it is the will of God for them.

Scripture References for this study: [Mark 14:66-72](#), [Mark 8:27-33](#), [Philippians 3:17-21](#), [Hebrews 6:9-12](#), [Colossians 3:12-14](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:15-18](#), and [Romans 8:28-30](#)



**LIVE**

- Eternal Patience
- Everyone’s Patience
- Enduring Patience

Application Question: How will you remain patient even when your hardest work seems to be yielding nothing?



**LEAD**

**Ask Yourself:** How am I reflecting my spiritual maturity through the Spirit’s work in my life, by being patient even through failures, rejections, and sufferings?