

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word

Leader Edition



Week of Sunday February 23, 2025

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Introduction

In James 1:2-5, we will explore how to transform our approach to life's trials by applying the wisdom found in God's Word. This passage encourages us to view challenges as opportunities for growth, leading to maturity and completeness. Together, we'll discuss how changing our perspective can bring joy in the midst of hardship, understand the purpose behind our trials, and learn to seek divine wisdom to navigate them effectively. As we reflect on these teachings, let us find practical ways to apply these insights in our everyday lives.

Disciple Measure

Intentional Friend: Do you have people you can call at any time when the trials of life hit?

Notes:

Discussion Questions

Changing Your Mind about Trials

Opening Question: Share a time when you faced an unexpected trial in your life. How did you react and why?

HIGHLIGHT

Have someone read aloud...

[James 1:2-8](#)

EXPLAIN

Discuss the following questions...

1. How does changing our perspective on trials impact our ability to endure them?
2. James says to "consider it a great joy" when facing trials. What makes this command challenging?
3. Discuss the statement: "There are some lessons in the Christian life that can't be learned outside of suffering." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. How can we practically seek God's wisdom during trials?
5. What is an example of someone in the Bible learning and growing through suffering? (Examples: Joseph - [Genesis 45:7-8](#), David - [2 Samuel 22:7](#))
6. What does it mean to ask God for wisdom "without doubting"? Why is this important?

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

James 1:2-8

What do you think this passage tells us about God when it talks about trials making us stronger?

Guide younger children to think about how God helps us grow, like learning new things in school. For older kids, discuss how God is like a loving teacher who uses challenges to build our character and faith.

How can we learn from tough times?

Help younger kids understand that just like we learn from making mistakes or trying new things, God wants us to learn and become better from difficult experiences. With older children, explore how these experiences can teach patience, strengthen faith, and help us mature.

What can we do when we need help understanding something difficult in life, based on what this passage says?

Encourage younger children to talk about asking for help, whether from parents, teachers, or God. For teens, discuss the importance of seeking wisdom and praying for guidance, emphasizing the idea of trusting God to help them understand and grow from challenges.

NT 260

WEEK: 9

- James 3
- James 4
- James 5
- Acts 15
- Acts 16

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:17-18

Resources

Resources to Listen To

BEMA Discipleship Podcast - James - Mitvoth



Marty Solomon dives into the book of James. Scan the QR code or click [here](#). (29 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project - James



Bible Project dives into what the book of James is about and explains its major themes and its place in the biblical story. click [here](#). (8 minutes)

Thought Of The Day - James



Marty Solomon reflects on the first few verses of James 1. click [here](#). (24 minutes)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



Commentary

Notes:

A Bit of Background

The book of James was written by James, who became a leader in the early Christian church in Jerusalem. James is known for his practical wisdom and straightforward advice, much like a loving yet firm elder sibling who tells you the truth you need to hear. He wrote this letter to early Christians scattered outside of Israel. These believers faced many challenges, including persecution, poverty, and social injustice. James wanted to encourage them and guide them through these tough times. His message is clear: While life will bring difficult situations, these trials have a purpose. They are not just random hurdles, but can be stepping stones to stronger faith and maturity. James highlights that these trials test faith, and through this testing, endurance is built, making believers more complete, like a work in progress that is steadily headed toward its beautiful completion.

What's Going On?

In these verses, James introduces the concept that trials and tests aren't just obstacles—they serve a deeper function. He begins by surprising us with the idea that we should consider it "great joy" when we encounter trials. It sounds strange at first because our natural reaction to hardships is usually anything but joyful.

Biblical Timeline



Notes:

But James explains that these trials test our faith and produce endurance. Like training for a marathon, each trial helps build spiritual stamina, making us stronger and more mature. The imagery here is of refining precious metals, where gold or silver is purified by fire. This refining process is similar to how challenges purify our faith by highlighting our weaknesses and pushing us to rely on God.

James 1:5-8 shifts the focus toward wisdom, emphasizing that when facing trials, believers should ask God for insight. God is portrayed as generous and willing to provide wisdom to those who sincerely seek it. This wisdom is not just about knowing facts; it's about understanding how to navigate life's challenges. James warns, however, against doubting while seeking wisdom, describing the doubter as a wave driven and tossed by the wind—unstable in all ways. This highlights the importance of having firm faith in God's guidance.

Throughout the passage, James communicates a powerful message: Trials are an opportunity for growth, and by seeking God's wisdom, believers can navigate them successfully. This perspective is meant to transform how believers view their struggles, encouraging them to see trials as part of God's greater plan to build endurance, maturity, and deep faith.

Notes area with a grid of dots for taking notes.



Today's highlighted passage and other related passages

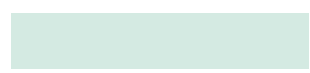
Sermon Notes

James 1:2-8 CSB

Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God – who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly – and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



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