

GROWTH GUIDE

For you. Your family. Your group.

THE BOOK OF JAMES
TRIALS | JAMES 1:1-12
FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

SERMON OUTLINE

1. There is more to a trial than the pain you feel. James 1:1-3
2. Participate in God's process for growth in your life. James 1:4
3. Seek help from the Lord. James 1:5
4. Trust in God's good plans for your life. James 1:6-12

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Check for understanding: Who was James? Who was he writing to? What were the circumstances surrounding his letter? What genre of literature would you put the book of James in?
2. Looking back at James 1:1-12 and your notes from Sunday, is there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
3. When James says in v2 to "count it all joy", what does he mean? What are some things we can do to help ourselves access the joy of v2 in the midst of our trials?
4. Is it especially difficult for you to trust in God's good plan for you in the midst of trials? Why or why not? If so, what does that reveal about what you desire or lean on? If not, what helps you trust during hardships?
5. What's how do we put together sitting under the trial and letting steadfastness have its full effect (v4), and our natural desire to escape the trial? Is it wrong to want/try to escape from hardship in light of this truth? Why or why not?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. Update the group on your Summer. How was and is your Bible reading, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines going? What, if any, trials are you currently going through that we can be praying for? Any ideas on how God might be working through those trials in your life?
2. What is one way you've been challenged by the truth of James 1 to grow in how you respond to trials in your life?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Praise God for whatever we're going through, whether life is easy right now or you're in the midst of trials, God has given us a reason to have joy.
2. Pray that when we face trials of various kinds that we would respond with faith and count it all joy knowing the character it is producing within us.
3. Ask God to bless our time in small groups this year, that He would use it for discipling and maturing us as well as knitting together the body in closer unity.