

James  
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James 1:2-12  
September 6, 2020

### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **God wants us to grow strong and healthy in our faith**

That means he might love you enough to allow something in your life that you won't like.

\*What is something that you had to allow in the life of someone you loved for their benefit?

\*What types of things can be categorized as 'trials'?

#### **Trials exist for a purpose**

He is trying to produce a steadfastness in us.

Read and discuss James 1:2-4(ESV)

*<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

\*What can we learn about trials from James in these verses?

\*What does steadfastness mean here?

\*If we don't have to like trials, how do we 'count it all joy'?

#### **We can face trials when we put faith in the truths**

Our firm belief of who God is and our secure identity in Him allows trials to shape us in good ways.

Read and discuss James 1:5-8(ESV)

*<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

\*What are some typical ways you react to hardship? What feelings do you have about yourself and about God in discomfort?

\*If wisdom doesn't answer all the questions about suffering, how can it help us in the midst of trials?

\*How does learning who God really is and what He's like and reminding ourselves of it regularly, keep us from becoming double-minded?

#### **Mature believers don't fight for a life of ease and comfort, but for a life of purpose**

He blesses us with a strong and potent faith from facing trials.

Read and discuss James 1:9-12(ESV)

*<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.*

*<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*

- \*What does our culture teach us about hard things? Where have you seen examples of this?
- \*What do you think James means by 'stood the test'? What are some ways it can look to stand the test?
- \*How have trials and discomfort strengthened your faith, given you steadfastness, or helped you embrace the purpose of God?

**Join us as we read through the book of James this fall as a church**

[James Reading Plan](#)

September 6 – 12th     James 2:1-26

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\***     [The Sorrowful Saint](#) by Scott Erickson

**Song for reflection**     [I Choose to Worship](#) by Rend Collective

\*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.