



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Mirrors: The Book of James - Don't Waste Your Trials

INTRODUCTION

This weekend we started our sermon series on the book of James by specifically looking at what it means to have joy in the midst of trials. Trials and persecutions are realities of life. There is no escaping it. However, God, in His goodness, can use trials to shape us more into His character. That is why we should “count” our trials as joy when we go through them. In trials we are being refined into the man or woman God designed for us to be.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you in last week's sermon?
2. What are examples of possible trials we could face?

INVESTIGATING SCRIPTURE

A good way to study the Bible is by using three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We want to observe the passage first to get an idea of what is happening. Then we interpret the meaning of the passage so that we can apply it to our lives. The following questions will follow this pattern as we look through this Biblical passage.

Scripture: Read James 1:1-18

Observation

1. What are some of the main themes that Paul talks about in James 1:1-18?
2. Though James is covering a lot of different topics, what is a common thread through each topic?

Interpretation

1. What is the difference between counting trials as joy and enjoying the trials?
2. How does asking for wisdom relate to trials?
3. What does James say the rich and the poor men supposed to boast in?
4. What is the difference between God testing and tempting?

Application

1. James says that every good and perfect gift comes from God. How does this change our perspective on the blessings of our life, both big and small?

2. For the most part, we do not live in an area where we are physically persecuted. What are trials that we can count as joy?

Since James is a book about action, we want to do something every week based on the passage we covered. This week we talked at length about joy in the midst of trials. We have given you a Psalm for each day this week. Each Psalm is about trusting the Lord in difficult times. The challenge is to read and meditate on the truth in each Psalm every day this week.

This week's challenge:

- Sunday: Psalm 3
- Monday: Psalm 6
- Tuesday: Psalm 16
- Wednesday: Psalm 4
- Thursday: Psalm 30
- Friday: Psalm 80
- Saturday: Psalm 64

PRAYER

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Divide up into groups of 2-3 people and use the following points to guide you through a time of prayer together.

Psalm 46:8-11 - "Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

God is our fortress and our strength. Though trials may seem overwhelming, all we need to do is be still and know who our God is. He will never leave us. With this truth in mind pray for:

1. God to continue to refine us to look more like Him.
2. A greater gratitude in who God is and the daily blessing that He gives us.
3. The Christians across the world who are being persecuted for their faith.

