

Series: James: Faith in Action
Sermon: Be Joyful in Suffering
Speaker: Jerry Gillis

Daily Readings

Monday: James 1:1-17

Tuesday: Romans 5:1-11

Wednesday: 1 Peter 1:1-12

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Friday: Romans 8

Saturday: James 1:19-27

Discussion Questions

1. Have someone in your group give a brief recap of Sunday's message, highlighting the primary Scripture points and the main idea of the message.
2. How did this message strengthen and/or correct your previous ideas about God's work in our trials? Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Did you learn anything new about God or yourself this week?
3. **Read James 1:1-3.** Observe how James instructs us to view our trials. What words does he use? How do these verses teach us to view our trials? Do you find it difficult to view your trials with this perspective? (Have someone in your group also read **Romans 5:3-5** and **1 Peter 1:6-7** to enhance the discussion)
4. According to these verses, how does God work in our trials? What is the goal beyond the trial? How can knowing this truth give us encouragement and comfort as we experience trials? (Take this time to call to mind the pattern Pastor Jerry shared with us of trials>testing>perseverance>maturity)
5. **Read James 1:5-8.** What does James instruct us to do in our trials? What words does he use to teach us about God's character? If you are experiencing a trial right now, share specifically with your group any ways you need God's wisdom. Spend time praying as a group for these needs.
6. **Read James 1:9-17.** What words or phrases stand out to you, and why? What do these verses teach us about God's character?
7. Take some time to share with your group common temptations that you face. Be honest. and see this as an opportunity to hold one another accountable.
8. How does the truth of God's character and work that we see in these verses help us to fight temptation and endure trials?
9. What action step do you need to take in response to this week's message? How can your group hold you accountable to this step?

Action Steps

If a member of your group shares a trial they are walking through, call them mid-week to check in, ask how they are doing, and pray with them.

Journal exercise: Take 10 minutes to journal your response to these questions - "Reflect on a time when you experienced a trial. What was the trial? How did you experience God's goodness and faithfulness? Looking back on the trial, how did God wisely work through the trial to mature you? How can remembering this help you face trials in the future?"