

J A M E S

A F A I T H T H A T W O R K S

WEEK 1

Growth Group Opener:

Briefly share an example of a time when you had to endure something, and what the experience was like. What motivated you to endure during that time?

Read James 1:1-18

What are the main themes of what James is teaching here? How are they related?

What can we learn from Jesus' own brother (James) calling himself a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ? Why is this noteworthy?

In our current culture that places high value on personal freedom, what would it look like in practice to become a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ? What might you need to set aside?

When you think about times when you've felt pure joy in your life, are they more likely to be the result of hard things you've gone through or the easier times in life?

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Why is perseverance important? What is the result?

In this context, how is spiritual maturity connected to joy? Why do you think this is?

What is the difference between a trial and a temptation?

What mischaracterization of God is James warning against in v.13-18?

How do we see God described in this passage? How does that compare to how you see Him?

What can you put into practice from what you learned this week?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for working in the lives of all believers to produce goodness in us, even in our trials. Give us discernment when are tempted. Help us to look to you for wisdom and guidance as we navigate the inevitable difficult circumstances in life. Help us find the joy of being in you, no matter what is going on around us, and help us focus on the eternal over the temporary. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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