

## James 1

*A study for Community Groups to use the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

### Week One: James 1:1-18

#### Overview

Everyone talks about faith, but what does real faith actually look like? In a world full of noise, opinions, and empty promises, the book of James cuts through the fluff with a bold message: faith isn't just something you say, it's something you live. This series explores how belief in Jesus should shape everyday life, from how we speak, to how we suffer, how we treat others, and how we make decisions. More Than Words is a practical walk through the book of James. It's a call to a faith that shows up, not just on Sundays, but in the moments that matter most.

**Passage: James 1:1-18.** James began his letter, which is in many ways a lecture, by dealing with the problem of trials that all believers encounter. Jews who became Christians in the early history of the church experienced much antagonism and persecution from their unbelieving fellow Jews, as is clear in the Book of Acts. All Christians who take a stand for the Lord continue to have to deal with such trials. Thus James' inspired advice is perennially relevant. – *Constable Notes*

#### Questions

\*The questions below are designed to supplement the standard questions that we provide in our Group Discussion Guide; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this reveal about God? About People? About the Life He has planned for us?*

1. Look at the way James describes himself. What are some lessons we can take about the author based on his introduction of himself?
2. James spends a great deal of chapter one talking about trials. What stands out about his introduction of them? What would it look like to, "consider it pure joy," as you face the trials of your life?
3. As you reflect about your own walk of faith, what are some trials you have experienced that in reflection, the Lord used for greater growth, strengthening, or brought about joy to you or others. How can those previous experiences help as you face present or future trials?
4. The second sort of pressure James mentions comes from temptation. What does he say about temptation that can help your perspective of it? How does his insight align with what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:13?