



CONVERSATION STARTER

What has God been teaching you in his Word lately? What have you been reading?

DEEPER

NOTE: If you're up for the challenge, try to memorize James chapter 1 together as a Life Group. If you're successful, consider memorizing the whole book of James. Take turns reciting your progress at the beginning or end of each Life Group meeting. How much can you memorize?

Read James 1:2-4

1. When you suffer or if you're in the midst of suffering right now, how is your joy? If you're lacking in joy, why do you think that is? If you're full of joy, what does that stem from?
2. In history, the experience of persecution has had a variety of effects on Christians. Some Christians, due to persecution, find themselves faced with strong temptations. What kinds of temptations come from being persecuted for the faith?
3. What other kinds, or categories, of trials do we face today?
4. Pastor Josh said, "It's amazing how, though quarrels and fights are abundant in our world today, no one seems to take James at his word that quarrels and fights among people, in the church — by the way — come from passions and desires that are at war within us." How do you resonate with this?
5. In order to prepare for and endure through trials, it's important that we are built on a firm foundation in order that we may not be tossed to and fro by the wind of every new and false teaching. How grounded would you say you are in God's Word? Could you easily discern God's wisdom in the midst of the world's foolishness?
6. Furthermore, do you know why you believe what you believe? In other words, if a non-Christian presented you with what appears to be inconsistencies or challenges to the Christian faith, or even present a different worldview, could you competently defend the faith?

7. What else stood out to you in the passage or in Pastor Josh's sermon? Do you now have more questions? Any encouragement to share? Anything you can bless the group with?

8. During your time together, have you heard the Spirit personally call you to action regarding enduring through trials and/or being built on a solid foundation?

NOTES

PRAYER PROMPT

Pray a prayer of blessing for each person in the group, whether or not they are currently going through trials, that they would endure and to it all joy, knowing that the trials Christ faced, even death on a cross, has granted us joy in times of suffering.