

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was it like growing up as a child in your family?
2. What do you think it was like for James growing up as Jesus' younger brother?
3. Since Jesus lacked nothing, do you think he was known for his joy?
4. How does God give us wisdom when we ask for it?
5. Everybody goes through trials. What trials have you experienced recently, or are experiencing now in your life?
6. How has pride hindered you in dealing with trials?
7. During trials what kinds of temptations do we face?

THREE WAYS:
1. JOY, DESPAIR 1) REAL 2) MATURITY 2. GOD, WORLD 1) WILL 2) FISHING BOBBER
3. HUMBLE, PRIDEFUL 1) ETERNITY 2) PERISH RESULT: 1) THIS LIFE
TWO ROADBLOCKS:
1. BLAME 1) SAME 2) GOD, THE DEVIL, OURSELVES
2. DECEIVED 1) GOD'S WORD
BACKGROUND
1) HALF-BROTHER 2) FIVE 3) OUT OF HIS MIND 4) RESURRECTION 5) JERUSALEM
6) STRUGGLING TO WALK 7) PERSECUTION

Answers to fill in the blanks:

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Sermon Study Guide
Pastor Phil Newby – March 3, 2019

SERMON NOTES

TRIALS, TESTS, AND TEMPTATIONS

James 1:1-18

BACKGROUND

James 1:1 (CSB)

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ: To the twelve tribes dispersed abroad. Greetings.

- 1) James was the _____ of Jesus.
- 2) James was the second of _____ brothers. Jesus was the oldest. (Mark 6:3)
- 3) Jesus' family thought Jesus was _____!
(Mark 3:20–21)
- 4) Jesus' brothers didn't believe in Him as Messiah until after His _____.
_____. (John 7:5, 1 Corinthians 15:7)
- 5) According to Acts, James became an important leader of the early church in _____. (Acts 15:13)
- 6) James wrote to Jewish Christians who already had found the Way but were _____ in that way.
- 7) These Christians left Palestine because of _____, yet they were still experiencing various trials.

**HOW DO WE HAVE FAITH IN GOD WHEN OUR
WORLD IS FALLING APART?**

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

THREE WAYS:

1. DECIDE TO HAVE _____, NOT _____

James 1:2–4 (CSB)

² Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

- 1) God uses trials to test to see if our faith is _____.
- 2) We can have the joy of the Lord knowing that trials build our faith and lead us to spiritual _____.

2. ASK _____ FOR WISDOM, NOT THE _____

James 1:5–8 (CSB)

⁵ Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.

- 1) “Double-minded” means wanting our _____ at the same time we want God’s will.
- 2) The doubter is like a _____ in a raging sea!

3. BE _____, NOT _____

James 1:9–11 (CSB)

⁹ Let the brother of humble circumstances boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but let the rich boast in his humiliation because he will pass away like a flower of the field. ¹¹ For the sun rises and, together with the scorching wind, dries up the grass; its flower falls off, and its beautiful appearance perishes. In the same way, the rich person will wither away while pursuing his activities.

- 1) The poor should focus on the blessings in _____.
- 2) The rich should realize earthly wealth will _____.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

RESULT: THE CROWN OF LIFE

James 1:12 (CSB)

¹² Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

- 1) The crown of life is both an eternal reward and a reward for _____
_____ – maturity, wisdom, and insight into God’s purpose and plan.

TWO ROADBLOCKS:

1. DON’T _____ GOD

James 1:13–15 (CSB)

¹³ No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. ¹⁵ Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

- 1) The original words for trial and temptation are the _____!
- 2) We can’t blame _____ or even _____
for being tempted, only _____.

2. DON’T BE _____ ABOUT GOD

James 1:16–18 (CSB)

¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ By his own choice, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- 1) The greatest gift to help us in our trials is the truth of _____
_____! (Psalm 119:11)