



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FAITH ALIVE - A STUDY OF JAMES

WHEN TRIALS COME - JAMES 1:1-12

Focus

James' purpose in this passage is to help us know how to respond to the trials that God sovereignly uses in our lives to bring us to glory.

Opening Question

Thinking about people you know and the wider culture of NYC, what have you observed about how people respond to suffering and difficult times?

Read

James 1:1-12

Some Questions for Reflection

Who is the author and who are the recipients of this letter? What's significant about the way that both are described?

Carefully examine each part of verse 2. What is James saying about how we should respond to our trials?

What does James say we know in verses 3-4? (Be sure to follow this 'chain' all the way through... How do trials produce steadfastness? What are some of the effects of our remaining steadfast under the weight of trials? What is the end result of our trials?)

How does knowing this help us to fulfill the command of verse 2? (Some related passages you might also find helpful to look up at this point are Roman 5:1-5 and 1 Peter 1:3-9.)

How is God described in verse 5? How does that description encourage us to pray with faith and not doubt?



We're instructed to ask for wisdom. Read Proverbs 2:1-15. What is wisdom? Where does it come from? What are its benefits?

Given what you just discussed, why is it necessary to ask for wisdom when we face trials?

How might verses 9-11 be related to the theme of trials? (In what way is both poverty and wealth a trial?)

What instructions does James give to both the poor and rich persons? (Some verses you might find helpful to read at this point are Gal 6:14; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Jeremiah 9:23-24.)

According to verse 12, what's the reward for remaining steadfast?

Who has God promised this reward to?

How does verse 12 help us when we face trials?

Closing Reflection and Application

How can you begin to put these 'tools' to use as you face trials in your life?

How can we as a community group support and encourage one another in the midst of our trials?

What's one trial we can be praying for tonight?