



CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

“Embracing Trials” Week 2: James 1:2-8

Read passage together.

James starts his letter off to believers in a strange way. He starts off talking about trials in our life and says that we should consider it Joy as we face these trials. Many people think when we put our faith in Jesus that life will be easier. This is far from the truth. In fact, trials will more than likely increase in the life of the believer. We have 3 things working against us such as satan, the world and our own flesh. Keep in mind that James is writing to believers that were going through some pretty tough trials. They were being persecuted and scattered for their faith in Jesus. This seems pretty bad right? How is there joy in being persecuted and scattered for our faith in Jesus and why did God allow it to happen? As believers, we must understand that in ALL THINGS God works for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). The reason the church was persecuted and scattered was because God loves us!! If the scattering of early believers did not take place, you and I would not have access to the Gospel. God uses trials in our life to show us how much faith we have and help us grow spiritually as a believer.

Questions:

1. How do you typically respond when facing difficult situations or trials in your life?
2. How is it possible for us to consider it joy when we face trials?
3. In what ways have past or present trials contributed to your spiritual growth?
4. According to Romans 10:17, where does faith come from?
5. When you are unsure of what to do in a difficult situation, how often do you ask God for wisdom?
6. How do you deal with doubts when they arise during your walk with Jesus?
7. What practical steps can you take to become more steadfast and less “like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind?”

Spend some time in prayer as a group.

Important announcements:

- Heart and Soul session 1 started August 11th, 2024 at the 144 on E Main. It is not too late to take this class. Make up session for session 1 will be at 3pm and session 2 will be at 4pm. Please let us know if you plan to attend.
- Invite 3 unchurched people to church this week! Live on mission!