

2: James

Accompanies the 4/18/21 Sermon

BIG IDEA

Last week we talked about pressing through during life's challenges. God uses these challenges to help us grow in maturity. In this section James says it's not only external trials that we must stand strong against but also our own sinful desires. Though we all face trials and temptation in this life, God is faithful to help us stand strong and persevere.

GETTING STARTED

Use the following questions to break the ice and begin your group discussion together:

- **Two Truths and a Lie:** Have each person make three statements about him or herself: two true statements and one lie. For example: "I've never broken a bone. I have five sisters. I was born in Poland." The group tries to guess which statement is the lie. This icebreaker should not take longer than 10-15 minutes.
- **Book of James:** What do you hope to get from this study through the book of James?

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.

 Have someone in your group read **James 1:13-18**

The CONTEXT of James

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic. Bring attention to what events are surrounding the text. In this text James is writing to the persecuted church.

- Why is it important to have a right understanding about the character of God?
- What does this text say about His character? Why is that important?
- Why do you think people try to blame God for the temptations they face, as James' readers evidently were doing?

- According to James in 1:13-15, who is the real culprit we are to blame for our sins?
- According to James 1:14-16, what do our desires lead to?

GETTING PRACTICAL

Discuss the following questions together as a group; be willing to share how challenges and trials have affected your life.

1. According to James where is it that sin begins?
2. How does "dying to self" help us stand strong during temptation?
3. What are some specific ways you've seen God's power at work in your life when you've faced temptations?
4. What role did prayer play in those situations?
5. What gifts is it that God gives? How can they allow us to stand strong against trials and sins?