

1: James

Accompanies the 4/11/21 Sermon

BIG IDEA

Like a coach uses training to test an athlete, God uses life's challenges to help develop us into the people he meant for us to be. It's been said that our faith is like a muscle, the more it is used the stronger it becomes. Life's trials can build character and strengthen our faith if we have the proper response.


GETTING STARTED

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

- *What are one to two words that describe your week?*
- *What was the funniest thing you saw or heard this week?*

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 1:1-11**.

 The **CONTEXT** of 1 James:

Watch: bibleproject.com/learn/james/

The bible project videos are informative and very well made. Watching this as a group will give great insight to the book of James and enrich your conversations.

- Who was James? Why was he writing this letter?
- What kind of trials do you think the recipients of this letter were going through?

GETTING PRACTICAL

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

1. What stood out about this week's message or this text?
2. What are the two postures we can adopt when going through challenges?
3. What is the difference between being happy in trials and being joyful?
4. How have trials shaped who you are today or who you are becoming?
5. When you are going through a challenging time what is your immediate reaction?
6. How would you like to react differently?
7. How can we stand "fortified" in times of testing and difficulty?

BEST PRACTICES:

- 1) **Read:** James is a short book. reading it in one sitting individually will help give greater clarity and value to your study of it (we suggest this is done individually outside the group).