

Life Group Homework

JAMES 1:4-8

Let's Get Started:

The book of James teaches us to look at trials and difficult circumstances through a different lens than the non-Christian.

In what ways do you react and respond to trials, unexpected challenges, and “bad news” differently than before you became a Christian?

Let's Dig In:

ENDURANCE AND TESTING OF YOUR FAITH

According to James 1:4, what is God's purpose for your endurance through a trial?

Many men and women in the Bible faced and endured severe “testing of faith” trials. Name three of these that stand out to you.

1.

2.

3.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Why or why not?

“Since James 1:5 begins with the word “if,” it is safe to say that not all people lack wisdom.”

ASKING

James 1:5 gives the believer a command to “ask God” for wisdom. Why do you think the Lord wants us to ask Him for wisdom? What does asking accomplish in the life of a believer?

What does James say about the outcome of asking God for wisdom if we do not ask in faith? What can we expect from Him?

In your own words, what is the main teaching point conveyed in each of the “asking” scriptures below?

Matthew 21:22

1 John 5:14

Matthew 7:7

James 4:3

DOUBLE-MINDED

Matthew 6:24 is another teaching from Jesus about the danger of being double-minded: ***“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”***

The Greek word translated “double-minded” is *dipsuchos*, from *dis*, meaning “twice,” and *psuche*, meaning “mind.” James uses it to describe someone who is divided in his interests or loyalties, wavering, uncertain, two-faced, half-hearted. Can you think of a time when you were tempted to be double-minded or to serve two masters?

How did God use the experience to teach you something spiritually valuable?

Let’s Live It Out:

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:6-7

Most of us would testify that our times of greatest spiritual growth have been when we were in the fire of trials and difficulty. For God to train us in His ways, He permits His fire to consume us. This fire causes us to die more to ourselves so that He can live more fully through us.

Share a time when you experienced a “refiner’s fire” trial in your life that resulted in growing and maturing spiritually in your faith.