

HOW TO HANDLE TRIALS

James 1:1-18

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE NATURE OF TRIALS
2. THE POTENTIAL OF TRIALS
3. THE RESOURCES NEEDED FOR TRANSFORMING ALL OF OUR TRIALS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. This week we started a new series looking at the book of James. The goal of this series will be to see how a relationship with Jesus applies to the various areas of our everyday lives. In your experience, how "practical" has Christianity been in your daily life?
3. The message this Sunday was about how to handle trials. Would you agree that we might be the least prepared society for dealing with trials? Why or why not?
4. In James 1:1-18 we see four different kinds of trials we will face in life. We see 1) Trials that test your faith 2) Trials that test your wisdom 3) Trials of extremes and 4) Trials of temptation. This isn't an exhaustive list, however, it is pretty all-encompassing. Describe a recent experience you've had encountering one of these types of trials. How did it go?
5. James 1:17 says that everything good and beautiful, everything that brings us joy, is ALL from God. Spend some time practicing gratitude as a group. List some of the good things that God has given you. Don't feel pressure to only give "big" answers. EVERYTHING good is from God.
6. Trials are able to threaten and take away the good gifts that God gives but they can never take away our relationship with God. So if we can treasure God more than we treasure anything else then we will be able to face trials with a joy and endurance unlike any other. But how do we become people who treasure God above all else?
7. **PRAY:** There is a 100% chance that the people in this small group are facing trials and challenges that we cannot handle alone. Let's pray for one another as we face these difficulties.

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: The way you grow in your love for God is by constantly reminding yourself how perfectly He has loved you. He chose you, He made you new and He did this all through the death and resurrection of Jesus.