

## Seeing Clearly

### *Real Faith: A Study of James*

#### Discussion Questions

- **What trial or pain has most marked your life thus far?**
  - How has that shaped your view of God and his goodness?
- **Our main text for today is James 13-18, but read James 1:2-3, 12 for context.**
  - What is the context of James's letter?
  - What is God's intent for the "various trials" we face?
- **Read James 1:13**
  - Notice the internal dialogue James introduces. How does James answer those who suggest God is the one tempting man to sin?
  - Why would someone be led to believe God is ultimately responsible for our sinful decisions?
  - What does vs 13 say about God's character?
  - How do we see this revealed in the rest of the Bible? (*Give examples*)
- **Read James 1:14-15**
  - Notice the pattern James gives for our sin:
    - Deception
    - Desire
    - Disobedience
    - Death
  - Where else do we see this patten in the Bible?
  - Do you believe that God is perfectly sinless and man is utterly sinful? If so, who is responsible for our sin?
- **Read James 1:16-18**
  - If verses 13-15 were intended to give us a clear picture of sin, what is James helping us see clearly in verses 16-18?
  - God is the giver of every good gift and every perfect gift. Give some examples of gifts in your life and how they point you to the love of a good Father.
  - What do these verses reveal about God's goodness?
    - V 17- God's goodness is unchanging ("no variation, no shadows due to change")
    - V 18- God's goodness is undeserved ("of his own will")
    - V 18- God's goodness is unending ("firstfruits")
- **Re-read James 1:18**
  - How does the word of truth help us see clearly in the midst of trials and pain?
  - When people in our group are walking through trials, how can we best serve them?
- **Which of the gospel identities (citizen, family, missionary) does this message most intersect?**