

Having Joy in Tough Times
Real Faith: A Study of James
Discussion Questions

- **How would you define JOY? Is it possible to have joy while going through difficult experiences?**
- **Read James 1:1**
 - Who is James?
 - Who is he writing to?
- **Read James 1:2-4**
 - How do you honestly feel about James' call to, "Count it all joy...when you meet trials of various kinds"?
 - What reason does he give for counting it all joy?
 - What is steadfastness?
 - How do trials produce steadfastness? How have you experience that?
 - What does James mean by "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing"? When can someone get to that point?
- **Read James 1:5-8**
 - What does this paragraph have to do with verses 2-4? (i.e. How is asking for wisdom related to having joy in tough times?)
 - What does James mean by "ask in faith, with no doubting"?
 - Do you struggle with doubting God's goodness or willingness to answer your prayers?
- **Read James 1:9-11**
 - What does this paragraph have to do with verses 2-4? (i.e. How is being poor or rich related to having joy in tough times?)
 - What does James say to the "lowly brother" (i.e. poor Christian)?
 - What does he say to the rich?
 - How are you tempted to focus too much on your resources or lack of resources?
- **Read James 1:12**
 - Why does James end this passage with a look at eternity?
 - How can you focus on your eternal reward when you're going through trials today?
- **Which of the gospel identities (citizen, family, missionary) does this message most intersect?**