

# Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 24, 2023

## ***God's Goodness, Even in Pain – James 1:2***

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Share some things you find difficult, but you enjoy them.

### MAIN POINT

***God is able to take even the difficult or painful experiences that come into our lives and use them to help us draw closer to Him and become stronger, more joyful people.***

### REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

### DIGGING INTO THE WORD

#### **Read – James 1:2**

- What do you think James means when he says, “**COUNT IT** all joy” (NKJV)?
- How can we take something DIFFICULT or PAINFUL and have the JOY of the Lord in the midst of it?
- Do you feel like you grow more through times of EASE and COMFORT or times of DIFFICULTY and PAIN? Why do you think that is?

***The muscles in our body become stronger when they are broken down and then receive the correct nutrients to be built back up. If the muscles are not broken down, they won't get stronger. If the muscles do not receive the correct nutrients, they won't get stronger.***

- How is a person who AVOIDS pain and difficulty like a weak muscle?

- How is a person who doesn't receive God's presence & truth in their pain like a muscle that is broken down but doesn't receive the correct nutrients?

**Read – John 6:35**

- How does Jesus give us the “nutrients” we need to grow stronger through pain and difficulty in life?

**Read – 2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

- How do these verses help us to be joyful even when our life is difficult and painful?

## PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ask people to share if they are currently going through something painful or difficult.
- Take time to pray for each other in the things mentioned above.
- Also, ask for any prayer requests that anyone may have.

***\*\*Remember to create a prayer request journal where you will write down the prayer requests and the corresponding praise reports\*\****