

Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 23, 2025

Count It All Joy – James 1:1-4

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- What are some things that easily create joy in you?

MAIN POINT

We can find joy even in times of trial when we realize God will use it for good.

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

- Why do you think God does not make our lives easy?
- Where do emotions fit in our relationship with God?
- How can it be dangerous to allow our emotions to determine our reality?

Read – James 1:1-4

- Share something that you find difficult, but it brings you joy.
- Compared to one year ago, are you more patient or less patient? Why?
- Share a time a trial you were able to use a trial you experienced to help someone else.
- Why don't parents give their children everything they want and often force them to do things they don't want to do?

- How can that example help us understand how our Heavenly Father works?
- Why do coaches push their players to train beyond a place of comfort?
- How might our trials be God training us?

Read – 2 Corinthians 4:17

- What is the encouragement given in this verse?

Pastor Nate shared these 3 blessings that are a result of trials...

- 1) Spreads the gospel
 - 2) Builds up the church
 - 3) Purifies us and molds us into Christ's image
- Can you share a time a trial accomplished one or more of the above?
 - What are some ways you have found success in resisting bitterness because of trials you have experienced?

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Share any praise reports or prayer requests.

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