



**Title: Practical Living: Trials and Temptations Part 1**

**Scripture: James 1:1-8**

**Date: 05202018**

**Bible Version: NKJV**

**BOTTOM LINE: God uses trials in our lives to grow our faith.**

**Vs. 1**

**James a bondservant** - James was known as a very direct, straightforward man. Here we see how humble he was.

**Bondservant** - One who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another.

*James did not pull rank, he didn't drop a name; he simply considered himself a servant. - Courson*

**To the twelve tribes** - This is a reference to the dispersion; the Jewish people (who had come to know Jesus as the true Messiah) scattered throughout the world.

**Vs. 2**

**Count it all joy when** - James says WHEN (not if) we fall into trials, we are to count it all joy.

*James regarded trials as inevitable.- Guzik*

**Trials are occasions for joy, not discouragement.**

**Trials can bring us to the end of what is humanly possible and to the beginning of what is only possible by God.**

*Do not sorrow over your trials, do not look upon them as misfortunes and calamities, they are black vessels, but they are loaded with gold. -Spurgeon*

**trials** - The word trial means both trial and temptation in the original Greek. Peirasmos (Pie-raz-mas)

*One of the best tests of Christian maturity is tribulation. When God's people go through personal trials, they discover what kind of faith they really possess. Trials not only reveal our faith; they also develop our faith and Christian character. - Wiersbe*

**What God sends or allow as a trial, Satan will use as a temptation.**

**Trials build us up. Temptations tear us down.**

**Vs. 3**

**The testing of your faith produces patience - Maturity comes through the testing of our faith.**

*Faith is tested through trials, not produced in trials. Trials reveal what faith we do have.- Guzik*

*Faith is as vital to salvation as the heart is vital to the body; hence the javelins of the enemy are mainly aimed at this essential grace. - Spurgeon*

**God uses trials in our lives to produce patience through our faith.**

**Vs. 4**

**Patience** - Many of us think of patience as a passive waiting. James describes it as an active exercise. We are to be moving.

**Patience brings forth completion.**

**Perfect and complete** - Trials make us complete.

*Endure everything; suffer everything that God sends you. - Spurgeon*

*Counting it all joy is faith's response to a time of trial.- Guzik*

**Vs. 5**

**If any of you lacks wisdom** - Everyone of us lacks wisdom in some area.

**Let him ask of God** - Notice that James says to ask of God. Not of your best friend. Not of your co-worker. If you lack wisdom we can ask God.

*God is the only teacher of wisdom.- Clarke*

*The best wisdom is not that which we acquire by study, but that which is the distinct gift of God in answer to prayer. - Spurgeon*

**Who gives to all liberally and without reproach-** God gives us what we need, when we need it. He doesn't hold back. Everything the father does is intentional.

**Vs. 6**

**But let him ask in faith-** James says we can ask for wisdom in faith.

Because of Christ, we can come to the Father. Because of Christ, we can ask for wisdom in faith.

**For he who doubts is like a wave-** James says that when we can't ask in faith, we are like a wave. We are tossed around. We get agitated.

Asking in faith means we acknowledge the sufficiency of God.

**Vs. 7-8**

**Double-minded man-** James says that when we are doubled minded, we will live our lives with half of our minds on the world and the other on heaven.

*A man of this character is continually distracted; he will neither let earth nor heaven go, and yet he can have but one. - Clarke*

*Till you get a single heart, till your whole soul is bound up in confidence in God, you cannot expect to be stable in your ways. - Spurgeon*

# Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

**DATE:** May 20th, 2018

**Bible Story: Joseph Sees God's Plan (Genesis 50:15-21)**

**Memory Verse: Micah 6:8**

1. This week we talked about how we need to obey God, because He loves us and has a plan for us. Its kind of like when our teachers or parents ask us to do something that will keep us safe or help us learn something. What are some things we can do to obey and do what's right in our family?
2. Is it always easy to obey and do what's right?
3. What did we learn was God's plan for Joseph? (to save his family when there wasn't enough food)
4. What might have happened if Joseph didn't obey God?
5. What do you think God's plan for your life is?

**Memory Verse:** Micah 6:8 (The Lord has told you what is good. He has told you what He wants from you: to do what is right to other people, love being kind to others, and live humbly obeying your God)



May 20th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper

## Practical Living: Trials and Temptations Part 1

James 1:1-8

# 3D Guide

**DO.**

**BOTTOM LINE: God uses trials in our lives to grow our faith.**



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



### DISCUSS.

1. What are typical trials that we face in our lives?
2. Why should we count it all joy when we face difficulties?
3. Is it hard to be joyful when you are facing adversity?
4. Based on this block of scripture, how do we receive wisdom?

**DO.**



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) or with their app.

