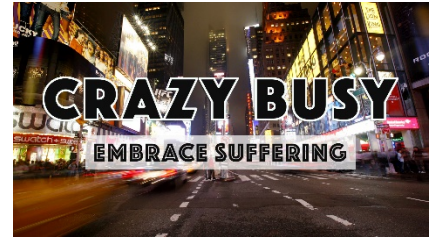


LIFE GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does our culture communicate that the Christian life is easy or tough? How do your expectations help or hinder your spiritual growth?
2. Why do we so quickly blame God for allowing us to suffer?
3. Read James 1:1-4. Do you think James is realistic in challenging us to “consider it pure joy” when we face trials? Please explain.
4. How credible is James’ life and example as one who challenges us to consider it pure joy when we suffer?
5. How can you encourage someone who is going through trials? How do you keep from being trite in what you share with them?
6. What does it look like to be joyful in the midst of suffering?
7. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What “joy” was set before Jesus as he went to the cross? How does Jesus’ example encourage or inspire you?
8. Read Zechariah 13:7-9. Jesus states that the shepherd in this passage refers to him (Mark 14:27). Why would a loving shepherd put people he loves through the fire and refine them? What is the result of going through the fire based upon these verses?
9. Share a time when you can look back and see that you grew through a trial in your life. How will those who persevere through struggles be rewarded in eternity?
10. What is the Lord trying to teach you through the struggles you are facing now? How can you embrace suffering in order to be more like Jesus?



Embrace Suffering

James 1:1-4

October 20, 2019