



August 25-26, 2018
Life Hacks: Unlocking the Power of Trials
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MESSAGE NOTES

James 1:1-12

1. What trials may produce

2. Unlocking the potential benefits of trials

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Reference:

Open in prayer and read James 1:1-12.

Review:

What was one thing from this weekend's message that challenged, confused, or stood out to you?

Reflect:

1. Some say joy is independent of our circumstances; we can choose to be joyful regardless of what is happening in our lives. Is that a realistic view of life? Explain.

2. The last word in verse 3, which is the outcome of the trials of life, is translated in various Bible versions as perseverance, endurance, or steadfastness. How do those words help you understand God's plan for the difficulties we experience?

3. How is your faith impacted when things begin to go wrong around you - at work, at home, in your neighborhood? What have you learned about your faith from your reaction to these circumstances?

4. If you are a believer in Christ, in light of verses 2-3, explain how you've seen trials in your life deepen your faith and contribute to perseverance?
 - a. How can favorable life circumstances do damage to your faith?

 - b. Is there a way to avoid damage to your faith during times of favor?

5. How can we adjust our mindset to embrace life's difficulties as gifts from God?

6. Read James 1:9-11. Why do you think James associates the status of the rich with the word "humiliation?" (V. 10) What does that tell you about the state of the rich and the poor before God?

Respond/Reinforce:

Spend time this week meditating on Proverbs 8 which portrays wisdom as a person. Consider the ways this passage adds to, or expands, your understanding of wisdom.