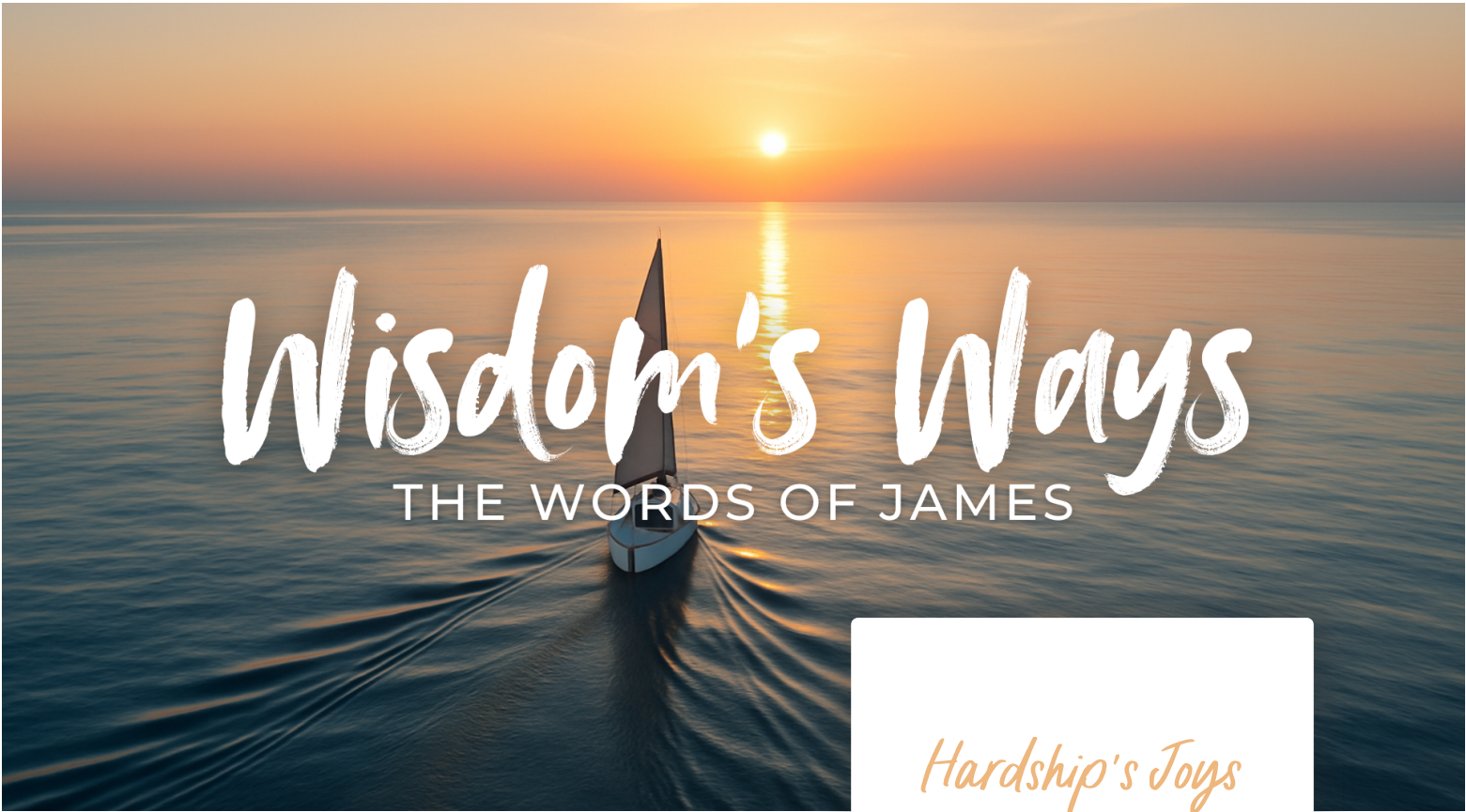




Wisdom's Ways

THE WORDS OF JAMES

Hardship's Joys

**The way to joy
includes crosses
to bear.**

SERIES SUMMARY

Before Jesus' death and resurrection, His siblings had their doubts. What sibling wouldn't, right?! Yet His brother James became a pillar of the early church and a teacher whose words still shape disciples today.

His letter is blunt yet brimming with practical wisdom, calling us to embrace joy in trials, reject favoritism, put faith into action, guard our words, and walk humbly with God.

Through this series, the words of James will help us uncover *Wisdom's Ways* for following Jesus here and now.

ICEBREAKER

What's the scariest opportunity you ever said yes to?

SCRIPTURE

Read the following wisdom literature:

- Job 23:10
- Psalm 119:71
- Ecclesiastes 7:2-4



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. Have you found it to be true that trials and hardships can be like a refining fire that purifies gold (referenced in Job 23:10)?
2. When is it worth it to go through the hard stuff (Psalm 119:71)?
3. In what possible sense could it actually be better/wiser to have your heart in a sorrowful place than in a party place (Ecclesiastes 7:2-4)?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. Can you share about a time when you found greater joy on the other side of hardship?
5. How have you tended to view hardships (e.g. punishment, battle, opportunity, etc)?
6. What scares you when you think about facing trials in the future?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What do you think makes the difference in whether hardship leads to joy or to other, more negative emotions?
 - A. Is there anything we can do to help it lead to joy?
 - B. How do our relationships factor in?
8. What can we practice now to prepare the right mindset for future trials we may endure?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Who needs encouragement? Who is in a trial and needs prayer for perseverance?

