



PRAYER: Lord and Creator, let us embrace every moment you give us. Teach us to be your agents of redemption and beacons of hope in a world shrouded in darkness. Transform us into your image through the crucible of the cross, writing your mandates upon our hearts, made pure by your perfect love. Embolden us to be your ambassadors, living as representatives of your holy kingdom, stirring in us your love for others, especially for those who would seek to destroy us because of you. You are the answer to our every question. You are the treasure that we desperately seek. Keep us upon your path of righteousness and justice, especially when we go through tests. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ICEBREAKER: What is the best food you can prepare? What are the ingredients? How often do you make it?

MESSAGE RECAP: The book of James was written by Jesus' half-brother, a son of Mary and Joseph who eventually became one of the leaders of the Christian church in Jerusalem. The unifying theme of the book of James is "faith," though James frames his discussion with a very specific look at the effects of real, saving, trusting faith. James asserts from the beginning of the first chapter that God's desire for us is to trust Him more, and more deeply. So how should we respond to hard times? James calls us to label those moments as joyful things because they bring the opportunity to trust God at a deeper level.

SCRIPTURE: Read James 1:1-12 (NIV)

DISCUSSION:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. **According to James 1:2-4:** What kind of an attitude should we have when facing trials? What reason does James give for maintaining such an attitude? Do you find it hard to maintain an attitude of joy when things are difficult?
3. **According to James 1:5-8:** Followers of Jesus are to ask God for wisdom because He is the source of all wisdom. That noted—what are followers of Jesus to avoid when asking God for wisdom? How does the imagery of the wave of the sea enhance this point? Do you find it difficult to consistently trust God during times of trial? Why?
4. **According to 1:9-11:** How does James turn common assumptions about wealth and poverty upside down? How does this connect to his discussion on trials?

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

Welcome!

FORWARD: MOVING INTO CHAPTER 23

Today's Message: Moving Forward Through Your Tests

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

5. **According to James 1:12:** What does God offer to those who persevere under trial? What do you think enables believers to confidently rest in God when encountering trials (hint: look at the end of the verse)? What trials are you currently facing that need to be approached differently?

CHALLENGE: What is one “a-ha” moment you had in our group discussion today. Note it and write it down. If you applied your learning from this week’s message, how would the next week be different for you?

SERVE: How is God calling us to live out this message this week? As individuals? As a group?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g., answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

Welcome!

FORWARD: MOVING INTO CHAPTER 23
Today's Message: Moving Forward Through Your Tests
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

We Care!

A large, solid red heart is positioned behind the text 'We Care!'.

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE GRADUALLY REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study. Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.