

James: Faith in Action
Testing of Faith
James 1:1-18

TALK IT OVER

Passages

"1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. 9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. 12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." – James 1:1-18 (ESV)

More of God's truth all week long at the "Renewal Church Denver" app or "St. John's Denver" app in your app store.

Start Talking: Find an announcement or mission for your group. (15 Min)

- February 12: Super Bowl Party - Invite some unchurched friends or friends/neighbors that are disconnected
- Feb. 22: Attend Ash Wednesday as a Life Group
- As you reflect on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
- **Head: Start Thinking about the Text. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)**
- The sermon text was James 1:1-18 and can be found on the left-hand side. To keep the study fresh please read Romans 5:1-5 in your Bible for your life group's main text.
- What does faith give us? What does suffering produce?

Heart: Start Sharing how the Text is shaping our beliefs. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Has there been a time when your faith was challenged? What did you do?
- How has your faith helped you through suffering? What were you like when you came out of it?

Hands: Start living the Text. Commit to believing or obeying the text this week. (10 Min)

- What can you do to encourage someone else in their faith?
- If you can, watch the movie *Father Stu* this week. Reflect on the role of suffering in the main character's faith. *Note: This movie is heavy and includes language not suitable for children.
- Faith comes from Hearing the Word! Invite a friend to come to church with you this week!

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.