



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of 8/11/24

Opener (10 minutes or less)

What was your first job and what did you learn from it?

DISCUSSION (50 minutes or less)

Begin your discussion time in prayer.

Scripture Reading: James 1:1-18

Questions:

1. What stands out to you from this passage and/or Sunday's teaching? What was new, challenging, or encouraging?
 2. What does James mean when he says to "consider it pure joy" when facing trials? How can trials test and develop our faith?
 3. Why is it important to ask God for wisdom when facing trials? And how can we cultivate a steadfast faith to ask without doubt?
 4. How does James address wealth?
 5. Why does James emphasize that God does not tempt anyone? Where does temptation come from?
 6. How does James describe the progression from temptation to sin to death? What steps can we take to interrupt this progression?
 7. How does James contrast the nature of God's gifts with the nature of temptation and sin? What does it mean that every good and perfect gift is from above?
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PERSONAL (30 minutes or less)

1. Oikos - the 8 to 15 people God supernaturally and strategically places in your life. Any oikos moments you would like to share..
2. What is going on in your life (note prayer requests and praise reports)
3. Pray

James 1:1-18

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 firstfruits of his creatures.