



## **WELCOME**

Take a few minutes to see what your Life Group members are planning to do for Easter events and family gatherings.

## **VIDEO**

Make sure you have had an opportunity to preview the video opening for Life Group so you have an idea where the conversation is going.

## **READ**

James 1: <sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.



### **QUESTION**

- What is one of the best restaurants you have ever been to? What made it so great? How would you describe the service you received?
- What is one of the worst restaurants you have ever been to? What made it so disappointing? How would you describe the service you received?

### **OBSERVATION**

It is easy to view our faith like a restaurant experience. We want God to anticipate our needs and cater to our wants. But growing our faith is very different from going to a restaurant.

### **QUESTION**

In the video, Pastor Bob said that you cannot become all that God wants if you always get everything you want. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

### **QUESTION**

James states that in a trial our faith is tested. What do you think this statement means? In what way is our faith tested? How does that look or feel when it is happening to you?

- How does James 1:13 shape your thinking about your faith being tested?
- What do you think is the difference between your faith being tested and you being tempted?



**QUESTION**

James declares that the byproduct of tested faith is perseverance. Why do you think perseverance so important to your spiritual growth and development?

**QUESTION**

James writes that perseverance does a work in us. When that work is complete we will be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Based on this statement, what do you think God's goal is for your life?

- How might God's goals be different from your own goals?

**OBSERVATION**

When you are going through a trial of any kind, what do you usually want? You want the trial to be over. This is usually what we pray for. God, please take away this sickness. Please provide financial resources. Please remove me from this frustrating season.

**OBSERVATION**

When we are going through painful trials, a common prayer would be to ask for the trial to come to an end.

- James suggests that there is another request we can include in our prayer. Ask God for wisdom.



**QUESTION**

How does God give wisdom to someone who asks for it?

- In what ways might God bring wisdom to a person?
- When you look back over your life, how did you receive wisdom?

**QUESTION**

In what ways is wisdom helpful when you are going through a painful trial?

**OBSERVATION**

Wisdom can come as an insight, helping us understand what is happening or why it is happening.

- It can be insight into what God is teaching us or insight into what other work He is doing in our lives.

**QUESTION**

Would you be willing to share about a trial you went through and the wisdom you gleaned from it?

**QUESTION**

Do you think God ever uses other people to impart wisdom to us? If so, how do you think that happens?



### **QUESTION**

If you wanted to gain wisdom from Scripture when you were in the middle of a painful situation, how would you go about it? How consistently would you access Scripture?

- Would you try to find places in the Bible that addressed something similar? How would you go about that?
- Would you read passages and look for direction in them? How would you recognize that direction?

### **OBSERVATION**

People may ask God for wisdom, but it is easy to doubt that God will give it, because we often feel that the painful trial is a form of punishment from God.

- It is true that some of our painful situations are self-inflicted. God can still use them to impart wisdom.
- It is also true that some painful situations are not caused by us and cannot be ended by us. God is committed to helping us in these situations too. There are things He wants to teach us. There are things He wants to mature in us.

### **QUESTION**

If you have gained some wisdom in a challenging season in your life, how might you be able to encourage someone in a similar situation.

- How can you share what you learned without sounding like a know-it-all?



**OBSERVATION**

When we share what we have learned in humility, it is more likely that others will benefit from it.

**PRAYER**

Ask Life Group members to share their concerns and requests. Along with praying for situations to be resolved, be sure to ask God to grant wisdom in the situation that will help mature us.