



Session 1 - James 1:1-12

Welcome! - Start with the table leader and go around and introduce yourself, your family, a little about what you do, and how long you have been attending Fellowship Church.

Who's At Your Table?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Keys To A Great Experience

- Show up
- Join in
- Be real
- Be sensitive
- Be confidential

Introduction to James

Author

Date Written

Recipients

Style/Themes

Other Notes

Main Point This Session

We have all faced difficult times in life. Today's lesson is about these difficult times and how we should respond to them as followers of Jesus.

Intro Question

What is one really difficult experience that you have faced in life? What helped you get through it? How did you handle it?

Engaging God's Word

Open Your Bible To - James 1:1-12

Discussion Questions:

1. According to James 1:2-4

- What kind of an attitude should Christians 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?

2. 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?

3. 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?

4. 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)?
- How would you describe your love for God?

Applying God's Word

- What trials are you currently facing that need to be approached differently?
- What is one area from today's lesson that you need to put into immediate action?

Prayer Time

Think of this as a time for people to really share and receive prayer for what is going on in their lives. Discourage people from primarily sharing prayer requests for other people (e.g. "please pray for my grandmother's uncle"). Such prayer requests lead to superficiality. Instead, encourage individuals to share prayer requests related to their own concerns, struggles, and needs.

Live It Out

- Pray and invite someone to join you for our bible study on James next week.
- Some of us complain a lot. What if we followed James and started considering our troubles "Pure Joy"? Who could you contact this week and instead of complaining, tell them about the way God is helping you grow?
- Memorize James 1:2-3.
- Have you seen spiritual growth in someone else who is going through trials? Encourage them and tell them ~ personally.

Notes

Intentional Time With God

In Your Day...In Your Heart

Set a time, place, and spend a few minutes each day reviewing and reflecting on our session, the verses from the book of James, and your group discussion. Also, reflect on the verses below and their application to your life. Make sure you take a few moments to pray about your relationship with God, others (leaders, family, friends, those in your group) and spend a few moments just being silent and listening to God.

Day 1 – 2 Cor. 1:3-7

Day 2 – Romans 5:3-5

Day 3 – Romans 8:28-29

Day 4 1 Peter 1:6-7

Day 5 – Proverbs 2:1-9

Day 6 – 1 Kings 3:9-11

Day 7 – Psalm 119:105